

Thatcher urges world to back blockade as Britons are taken away from their homes at gunpoint

Europe agrees joint action against Iraq

By ANDREW McEWEN IN PARIS AND NICHOLAS WOOD IN LONDON

THE Prime Minister yesterday called for the whole world to back a naval blockade of Iraq as six West European nations agreed to co-ordinate operations to enforce the sanctions imposed by the UN.

Margaret Thatcher said international support for a blockade was the best way of averting a war in the Gulf, and while the British and American military policy was legal, they would like the "extra authority of the whole world" through a UN resolution that specifically authorised the use of force to ensure compliance with the sanctions.

The UN Security Council deferred a decision on such a resolution in the early hours of yesterday. Yemen promised to turn back Iraqi tankers, but the first Iraqi oil to escape the blockade was later unloaded at Aden.

Britain, France, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands and Belgium yesterday agreed to share the task of stopping Iraq's supply lines. They will meet on Friday to decide how to pool their intelligence, logistical support and precautions against air attack. They will also attempt to harmonise their rules of engagement.

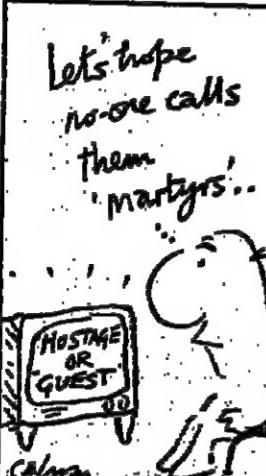
France announced that it would send ground forces to the United Arab Emirates and instructors to Saudi Arabia, while Mrs Thatcher indicated that she, too, was considering sending soldiers to the region. Spain said that it would send four warships to the Gulf, and

West Germany announced proposals to change its constitution so that it could deploy forces outside the Nato area when acting in support of the UN resolutions.

Soon after the Western European Union agreed its concerted effort, the 12 European Community countries

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said they would "disobey an order to clear their embassies in Kuwait by Friday". They demanded a joint warning to Baghdad not to attempt to harm the Europeans held in Iraq and Kuwait.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told a press conference after the decisions in Paris: "Any Iraqi official, soldier, any individual who is ordered to commit illegal acts should know that he will be held personally responsible."

Ten Britons and an American were taken from their homes at gunpoint yesterday, after a resident in a block of flats was forced to point out where Westerners were living, the State Department in Washington said yesterday. The American was taken to an hotel and seen by embassy officials. The Britons were said to be at a civilian establishment.

At the same time, Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, told a news conference in Jordan that Saddam was offering to hold talks with the United States "in an open letter" on Baghdad television.

President Saddam Hussein to seek a peaceful solution or face global disaster.

"If Bush were to attack, a grave disaster would take place, not only regarding the region, but regarding the whole world," he said.

The Iraqi leader rejected Mr Bush's speech on Monday comparing him with Hitler and said it was the American president who was acting more like the Nazi dictator.

A response to the Iraqi initiative was the only way for Mr Bush to avoid being equated with Hitler, he said.

Some of the Britons who have been rounded up in



Hammering home the message: Margaret Thatcher at her press conference yesterday

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In a letter to the UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires said Iraqi forces were destroying the country's infrastructure by "plundering, looting and destroying the moveable and immovable assets and property of banks, companies and government and private financial institutions." They had also seized 15 airliners.

But Iraq continued to build up its strength in Kuwait as the last soldier left Iran after the eight-year Gulf war. President Saddam was reported to have moved 36 launchers, including all its mobile Scud missile launchers to Kuwait,

raising the spectre of chemical warfare attacks on oilfields, cities or American forces in the Middle East from chemical attack by Iraq have been received by the defence ministry. They include a request for more than a million from Saudi Arabia.

The nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) suits, made under licence by three British companies, are widely regarded as the best protection in the world, but their popularity is likely to lead to tough governmental decisions on maximum weekly production is 2,000.

The demand is coinciding with growing scientific concern about the suit's usefulness.

British Aerospace has been appointed by the ministry's sales organisation as co-ordinating contractors for the project as war looms. Already

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Rift over Red Cross action on hostages

By DANIEL TREISMAN, AND ALAN McGREGOR IN GENEVA

A SERIOUS rift developed last night between Britain and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Margaret Thatcher attacked the ICRC for not taking adequate action to protect foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, saying that Britain had contacted the committee on August 8 and 10, but nothing had been done so far. Mrs Thatcher said: "We are deeply disappointed that our efforts," the spokesman said. Meanwhile, William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, yesterday met the committee's president, Cornelio Sommaruga, in Geneva, to express Britain's frustration at its citizens being held hostage.

"Mr Sommaruga shares our anger and frustration," he said. The president told him of the ICRC's efforts to gain access to foreign nationals prevented from leaving and he was confident the organisation would "bend its skills and efforts to this end," he added.

"Their success depends on their gaining access. People should be brought out in convoys marked by ICRC flags."

Controversy touched the organisation in March last year after 200 staff members wrote to Mr Sommaruga, a former Swiss diplomat, calling on the leadership to show "a little more courage" in confronting international violators.

The letter, which spoke of a "crisis of confidence", prompted Mr Sommaruga to promise "structural reforms" this year. A new director general, Guy Deluze, took office in January.

Saudis seek a million doom suits

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NICOSIA

HUGE orders for British-made "doom suits" to protect allied soldiers and civilians in the Middle East from chemical attack by Iraq have been received by the defence ministry. They include a request for more than a million from Saudi Arabia.

Western hopes were raised when Yemen told the UN Security Council it would turn away one of two tankers that had defied US warships at the weekend and was steaming towards Aden. Last night the *Baba Gurur* was waiting offshore. But the 36,330-tonne *Ain Zalah* was allowed to slip past patrolling Yemeni gunboats and unload at Aden.

Yemen's surprise pledge had raised hopes that it would be the latest of Iraq's allies to throw in its lot with the international community.

Two more Iraqi tankers were in Aden last night, although it was not clear if they had arrived before Yemen made its limited pledge.

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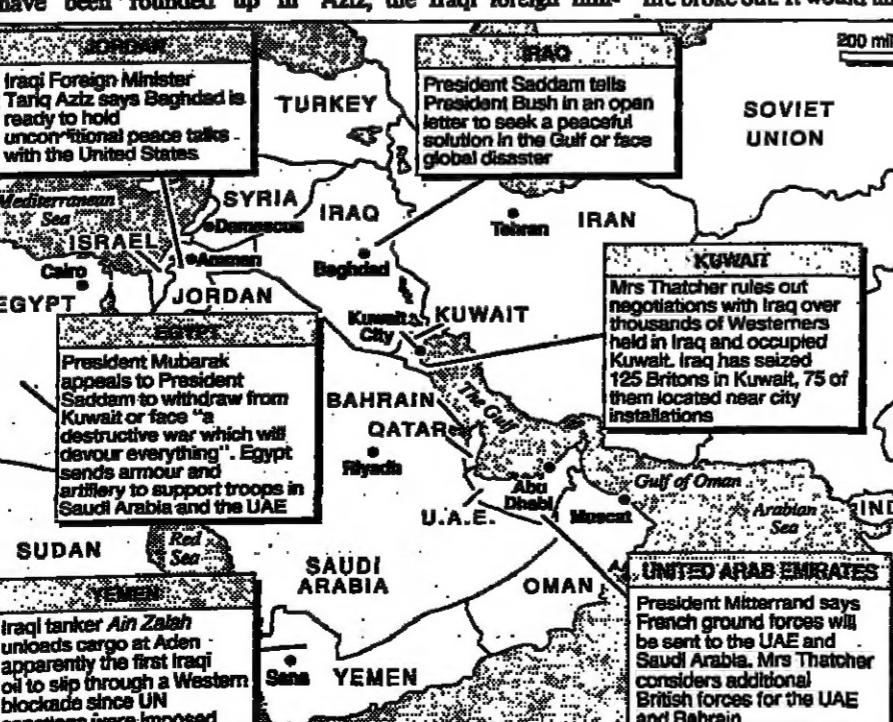
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Tough years for economy

The British economy faces austerity for years ahead if long-term inflationary pressures are to be removed, say economists at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In a generally gloomy review, economists at the Paris-based club of industrial nations says that there is no sign that the rise in inflation has been firmly stopped and that the government faces a bigger challenge of bringing inflation down.

Some of the Britons who have been rounded up in



Timetable agreed by East Germans

From GILBERT STEICHEN IN BONN

POLITICAL leaders in East Germany's parliament, after weeks of bitter feuding, yesterday agreed on a timetable for German reunification, but the decision drew sharp criticism and debate from party ranks.

The prime minister, Lothar de Maizière, said he and faction leaders of all political parties represented in the Volkskammer had forged a compromise agreement calling for unification to take effect on Oct. 14. The compromise was at least a temporary victory for the prime minister, who has been fighting against growing calls for immediate German reunification to throttle the nation's

increasing economic and political turmoil.

But the dispute continues to simmer. Some political leaders have argued that a vote on immediate unity be held today. Yesterday's agreement could serve to avert the emergency vote, although the mood in the Volkskammer remains volatile and many deputies appear to oppose the decision.

Social Democratic (SPD) leaders said there was great disagreement within its delegation. "This timetable is by no means certain," said the SPD leader, Wolfgang Thierse.

He said it was possible that

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Degree courses

The Times will publish tomorrow a list of vacancies remaining for degree courses at British universities. Vacancies in polytechnics and colleges of higher education appear today.

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Derided Sinclair C5 has last laugh at 72mph

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ADAM Harper is set to put an end to the motorway joke which almost cost one of the country's best known brains his reputation. Mr Harper, aged 26, plans to drive a Sinclair C5, the electric car which drivers had to pedal up to 200 mph to win the British land speed record for an electric car.

The attempt, in October, will no doubt be greeted with mirth among experts, who condemned the tiny three-wheeler when it was rolled into the public gaze by Sir Clive Sinclair, the computer genius whose business activities won the admiration of the prime minister.

The C5 was Sir Clive's nadir six years ago when a disbelieving public was confronted by the plastic trike, powered by an electric motor made by Hoover. Looking more like a toy than a road-

going vehicle, the C5 was capable of only 15mph and the driver had to pedal furiously to help the tiny washing machine motor get the better of steep hills or go faster.

However, it might yet be shown that Sir Clive was ahead of his time. Mr Harper, who owns a bicycle shop in Kent, says the C5 now changes hands at up to £2,500 each, and he is about to underline its abilities by breaking the current 67mph electric vehicle land speed record. His adapted C5 has already reached 72mph in tests and he confidently expects to pass 80mph in his quest to rehabilitate the reputation of the midget runabout.

The C5 used in the record attempt will have an updated version of the original C5 engine, supplied by EMD, an electric engine manufacturer and exporter from Essex. With all this power, however, the

problem will not be getting up speed, but stopping, so Mr Harper will be carrying a drag parachute of the type used by NASA for braking just in case the two-mile runway at RAF Elvington, North Yorkshire, is not long enough. The C5 used in the record-breaking run will also have motorcycle wheels and tyres and Mr Harper will be wearing the same protective clothing worn by formula one drivers.

The record attempt will be the last chapter of a story which started for Mr Harper when he bought 600 C5s from a film company three years ago as a speculative investment. His move was not an immediate success, but a rail strike and the growing interest in the environment brought about a revival for the little trikes which were soon commanding prices of £900 among customers looking for novelty transport.



Harper has ordered a braking parachute

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST

KUWAIT BORDER Experts play down Iraq's 'shaky' army on frontline

From CHARLES MILLER, IN A POOLED DESPATCH, DHARAN
IRAQI forces dug in close to the Kuwaiti border are in a shambles. Early over-estimates of the strength of President Saddam's forces in Kuwait were the result of troops being moved around the country. The threat of chemical weapons was also being played down.

The sources said the capabilities of the 120,000 men from President Saddam's Republican Guard had been grossly exaggerated; and they believe Iraqi supply lines are so bad that a full-scale invasion with reinforcements is all but impossible. Most of the troops dug in 10 to 15 miles behind the border are young teenagers described as "shaky".

It was being emphasised at the Dharan military complex in northeastern Saudi Arabia that the Iraqi troops did not appear to be a "poised force". One intelligence source said: "Their re-supply lines are a

EGYPT

Mubarak threatens Baghdad with war

From RICHARD OWEN
IN CAIRO

AMID reports that Egypt is reinforcing its growing military presence in the Gulf by sending anti-aircraft missiles and tanks, President Mubarak yesterday made an eleventh-hour appeal to President Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait or face "a destructive war which will devolve everything".

As the Egyptian leader made his appeal, Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, held unscheduled talks here with General Youssouf Sabri Abu Taleb, the Egyptian defence minister. Mr Cheney made a one-hour stopover at Cairo airport at the end of a four-day tour of the Gulf.

Fayrouz al-Shara, the Syrian foreign minister, also arrived in Egypt unexpectedly and held talks with President Mubarak on the Arab League force in Saudi Arabia, to which Syria is also contributing troops.

Western military sources said Egypt had sent anti-aircraft missiles, armoured personnel carriers, howitzers and M60 tanks to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to provide support for its troops. There was no immediate official confirmation of this. An estimated 5,000 Egyptian soldiers are deployed in the Gulf, and President Mubarak this week said Egypt's military commitment was "open-ended".

Egyptian government-controlled television and radio interrupted programmes to carry President Mubarak's appeal to Baghdad to pull its troops out of Kuwait before it was too late. "If the fire breaks out", he said, "it will take us backwards to darkness and loss."

He went on: "I appeal to President Saddam Hussein to save mankind from a destructive war which would destroy all greenery, all land. God only knows how terrifying the end will be if such a war begins."

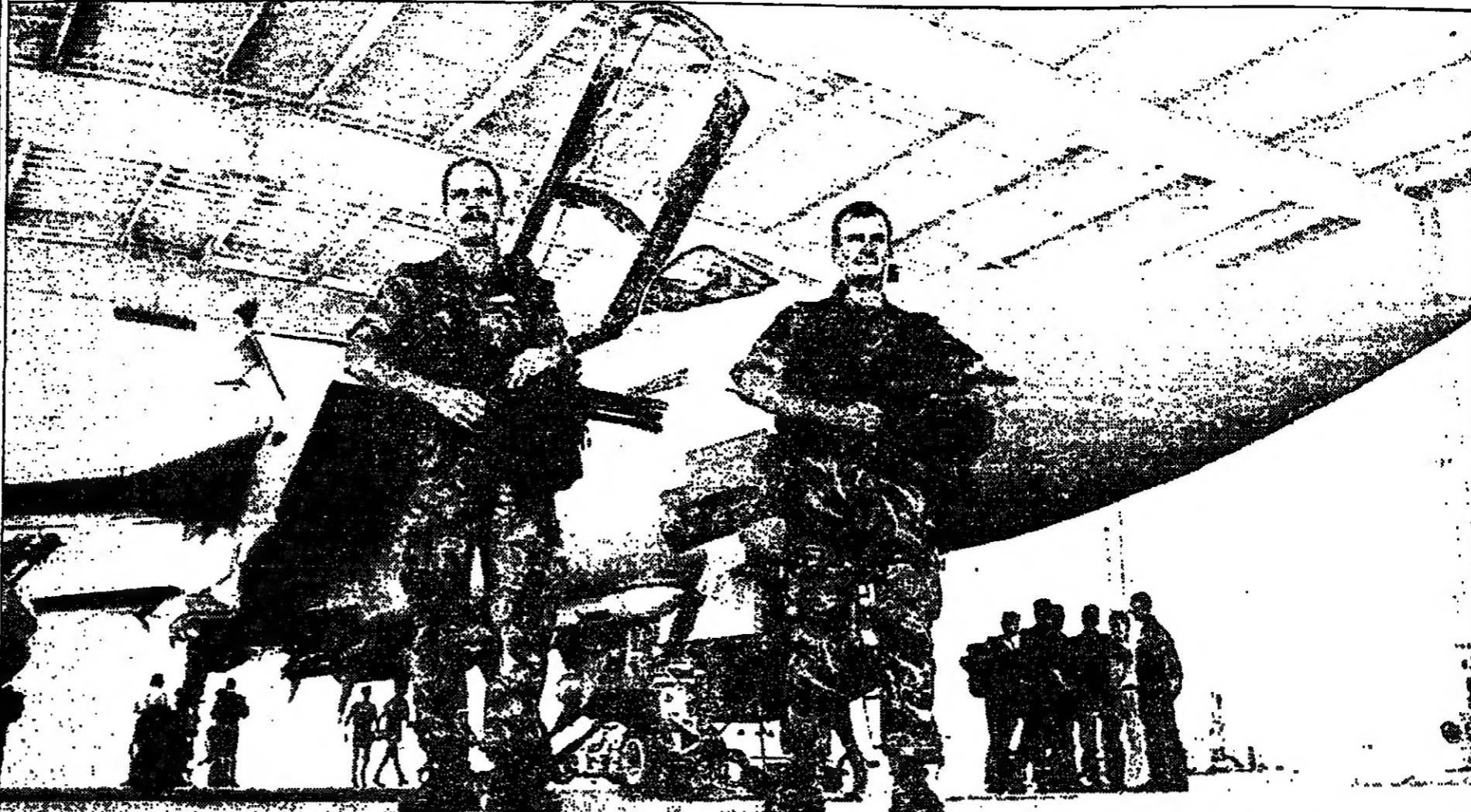
Egypt has taken the leading Arab role both in sending troops to Saudi Arabia and in putting pressure on President Saddam to back down. In response, the Iraqi leader has branded President Mubarak an agent of Western neo-colonialism, and has called — so far without success — for a Muslim uprising against the Mubarak government.

Addressing President Saddam directly, Mr Mubarak said: "I am fully confident you will respond to this appeal out of deference to the supreme Arab interest, which is above all other considerations." He said the Arab nation was capable of solving its own problems if it used "the brains of its sons and leaders".

"These are critical, decisive and difficult hours," Mr Mubarak said. "I appeal in the name of all that is sacred on our Arab soil, in the name of Islam, the religion of peace, and in the name of Arab nationalism."

The Egyptian leader urged President Saddam to pull out of Kuwait "in the name of light, good and right". Such step would be applauded by the whole world, he said.

Egypt has nearly half a million men under arms, but it is expected to limit its contribution to the Arab force in the Gulf to around ten to twelve thousand.



Desert watch: Airmen Peter Robinson and Gary Morris guarding an RAF Tornado fighter, part of the multinational force gathered against Iraq, in Saudi Arabia yesterday

IRAQ

Saddam goes underground to thwart assassination attempts

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq is a former assassin who thinks that he knows all the tricks to which his enemies might resort if they wanted to kill him. He therefore goes to extraordinary lengths to thwart them.

Some of his precautions are traditional. Others are distinctly of this age. If the CIA decides that the best way to lift his shadow from the Middle East is his physical destruction the task might not prove easy, even if access to him could be gained.

President Saddam has not been seen in public since August 3, when he made an unannounced appearance before the Iraqi national assembly to explain his invasion of Kuwait the previous day.

Since then, he has been seen in a news bulletin on Baghdad television only once, when he received the puppet ministers of the new Kuwaiti regime.

The austere appearance of the room in which that ceremony was held stood in contrast with the gaudy palaces President Saddam has built for himself all over the country. It is thought that he

has retreated to a concrete bunker, of which he has built many, including one in a suburb of Baghdad that is said to be secure against nuclear attack.

Even during the most secure spells of his rule over Iraq, for example since the end of the Gulf war with Iran two years ago, President Saddam has taken no chances with his personal safety. His frequent "meet-the-people" excursions were no more than masquerades. They were always unexpected, and his bodyguards would cordon off the chosen location for hours before his arrival of his convoy to search all residents.

A British politician who sought an audience with the Iraqi leader says that after passing through numerous checkpoints and a thorough body search, he was made to wash his hands with a strong detergent "to minimise the risk of transmitting a disease" to President Saddam.

Those seeking President Saddam's company are usually also made to change into new clothes issued by guards before they are taken into his

presence. This precaution may have been inspired by the memory of "the exploding mullahs" in September 1970. A few months after concluding a peace agreement with Mustafa Barzani, the late leader of the Kurdish autonomy movement in the northern highlands, President Saddam persuaded a number of Arab religious leaders to visit Barzani with cassette recorders hidden under their robes "so that we can ourselves hear what Barzani has to say". The recorders were packed with dynamite and were exploded by remote control as Barzani began to speak. If a man serving tea had not stood between him and the mullahs, the Kurdish leader would have died instantly.

Even his ally King Husain of Jordan found himself at the receiving end of President Saddam's paranoia last year. The monarch was made to wait on the tarmac at Amman airport for hours while a succession of empty Iraqi aircraft landed. The president eventually emerged from a small executive jet.

During the war with Iran, his whereabouts were kept so secret that, by their own admission today, his senior ministers sometimes sought him for five days before finding him. One minister, Samir Naim, was once found carrying a pistol when he arrived for a cabinet meeting. He was severely beaten by the palace guard. When he was at last allowed to enter the cabinet room, he did not dare complain. Instead, he praised the guards for their vigilance.

Bodyguards must fulfil two conditions after passing the most rigorous checks on their backgrounds. They must come from one of the Bedouin tribes of Takrit, Shammar or Obeid, and they must be shorter than President Saddam. The guards are then given many privileges.

In common with the caliph Harun ar-Rashid in the ninth century, and Nicolae Ceausescu, the late dictator of Romania, President Saddam has official food tasters. This came to light last year when Baghdad radio announced that the president's eldest son, Uday, aged 29, would be tried for the murder of his father's chief food taster at an official party for the wife of President Mubarak of Egypt. (Uday has been reinstated as chairman of the Iraqi Olympics committee.) President Saddam is said to wait at least half an hour for signs of possible illness in his food tasters before he eats from the dishes they have partially consumed.

Above all, perhaps, the task of would-be assassins would be made more difficult by President Saddam's preference for not spending two successive nights in the same place, and by his travelling in fleets of at least 20 identical cars or helicopters.

A former British cabinet minister told *The Times* this week that, none the less, the Americans always knew where he was. This is said to be because of the volume of radio traffic that accompanies his guards. If so, it might explain why President Saddam has retreated to underground bunkers and why he is said to be displaying "nervous eyes".

LEBANON

Beirut's economy takes hard knock

From A CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT

ALTHOUGH the Gulf confrontation has not brought more violence to Lebanon, it has inflicted severe economic damage. But experts are holding out hope that Beirut might become a leading candidate in the Middle East for new investment.

For the past 16 years, the Lebanese economy has been based on the grinding civil war and its by-products. Money spent on arms and ammunition, invisible funds from drug trafficking and remittances from expatriates constituted the main sources of national income, said Nazif el-Kurd, an economics expert.

Most of Lebanon's skilled labour had emigrated to the West or the Gulf and sent money home, he said. The Palestine Liberation Organisation and Iranian-backed groups such as Hezbollah had been a burden on the economy, said Mr el-Kurd. The total loss, according to Marwan Iskandar, an economist, corresponded to \$800 million a year. In addition, the PLO's support for Iraq meant a cut in funds provided by oil-rich countries opposed to Baghdad.

Mr el-Kurd said the only hope for Lebanon lay in restoring calm and stability so it would attract investment and skilled labour. "Now that the boom in the Gulf has ended, Lebanon is the only candidate to inherit prosperity," he said. "We are the only country in the region with a free-market system and virtually no foreign debt."

JORDAN

Marriage lifeline for US hostage

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A PALESTINIAN from Nicosia played the matchmaker as a American woman reporter married a Muslim fundamentalist in Kuwait last week. Like a quickie marriage parlour in Las Vegas, the Jordanian embassy rushed through the papers and the two sped off to Amman for a honeymoon.

Their union ended after just 24 hours, but not in acrimony. It was a marriage of convenience, a novel and fast safest way of fleeing Kuwait than dodging Iraqi bullets in a convoy darting over the desert to Saudi Arabia.

The woman was lucky because she had good contacts



Deck hands: An officer signalling to the pilot of a Lynx helicopter to take off from the stern of HMS Jupiter, a Leander class frigate, during a routine Gulf patrol yesterday

AMMAN NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

Jordan exodus quickens as expatriates lose nerve

In the eerily deserted dining room of the Holiday International Hotel in the Red Sea port of Aqaba, the Filipina waitress serving the only occupied table whispered discreetly so that the Arab members of the staff would not overhear: "Do you think it is safe to stay? We are all very frightened that we will get caught in the middle."

Just across the bay, the lights of the Israeli resort of Eilat twinkled with deceptive allure, a reminder of Jordan's uncomfortable position between the Jewish state on one side and Iraq on the other. It is no surprise that most flights to all destinations from Amman are fully booked, particularly since Monday when the United States advised Americans to leave.

Anti-American demonstrations are now so commonplace that protesters have run out of American flags to burn. Many shops now refuse to stock American cigarettes and the Pharmacists' Association is organising a boycott of American-made drugs.

Despite the intense dislike of America and all that it stands for in the Gulf, a queue is still to be found outside the US embassy every

morning as Jordanians, including those of Palestinian origin, line up in the hope of obtaining a US visa. What is fuelled by the widespread belief that Israel will become a part of any Gulf conflict has left shelves in Jordan's supermarkets stripped of many kinds of food, causing shortages of canned goods, rice and sugar. Fights have occasionally broken out as housewives compete for the few remaining packets.

The run on essentials has been increased by the influx of tens of thousands of penniless foreign refugees from Iraq and Kuwait. Up to 20,000 are arriving daily and stretching the resources of the tiny Hashemite Kingdom to the limit.

The tension is reinforced by the daily newspaper advertisements in which heads of important tribes, trade associations and other bodies express fulsome support for King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein. The king has ordered a crash programme in civil defence training and mass recruitment to a new "popular army". A search has begun for gas masks as Khalid Tarawneh, the former civil defence chief, said that a previous order for 250,000 had not been met "for

financial reasons". The Amman Municipality has begun cleaning a dozen underground air-raid shelters which have been unused since the 1970 civil war.

Then, as now, the headquarters for the press is the Intercontinental Hotel, across the road from the US embassy. Among the best-informed guests are members of a crew from the American ABC television network recently invited into Baghdad to interview Tariq Aziz, the foreign minister. "We went as his guests and he was responsible for our safety", said one producer. "So it was disconcerting to find that officials at the foreign ministry were becoming increasingly isolated from the leadership. One even had the courage to tell me privately he was opposed to the policy of using the hostages as human shields."

One member of the ABC team discovered some of the American hostages crammed together on three upper floors of a Baghdad hotel, closely guarded by members of the Mukhabarat, the Iraqi intelligence service. "They had nothing to do, so most left their hotel room doors open and sat out

in the corridors gossiping and desperately trying to fill in time," he said.

The visas for the trip were obtained through the Iraqi embassy in Washington and designed

So, what's new?


to give maximum publicity to the message for Mr Aziz.

Followers of the ABC crew who make the vain, daily journey to the unfriendly Iraqi embassy in Amman have quickly come to learn the meaning of the Arabic word

bukra. As one disgruntled British newsman explained: "It is the same as mañana but without the urgency of the Spanish."

Far from imposing sanctions

on Iraq as requested by President Bush, Jordan this week launched a public appeal through its General Union of Voluntary Societies to raise cash and goods to give to the children of Iraq. Within the first 24 hours the appeal raised the equivalent of more than £100,000.

Abdullah Katib, the executive president, said that Jordanian companies had volunteered freezer lorries to deliver foodstuffs such as milk, eggs and biscuits and that the first deliveries were expected to be made "in a few days".

Dr Katib said the appeal would soon be extended internationally, adding that enquiries about how to contribute had already been received from Yemen and the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "This is not economic aid, it is humanitarian," he said. "The cause will get extra publicity when Jordanian women march through central Amman to the Basman Palace tomorrow to pledge support for the king."

Because the French have a record of buying out their hostages there was talk of a deal. But the PLO, which has suffered by supporting Iraq, was clearly hoping for political support, not money, and was delighted to be able to offer the French president some comfort. But with eight French warships either in or on their way to the Gulf there were clearly limits to what Mr Arafat could persuade his "brother Saddam" to do.

Last night the Iraqi leader threatened to move his French "friends" to nerve centres in Baghdad if Paris supported Washington's action and enforced sanctions with naval power. The warning came after France said it would join efforts to enforce the embargo on Iraq "with firmness".

So far, according to Arab sources, only Americans and Britons have been used as human shield against a possible US strike. They are housed in heavily-guarded compounds.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

From abstract to madcap, science jamboree retains its lure

SWANSEA this week is the host to a peculiarly British institution, a week-long jamboree of science in which ordinary citizens mingle with professional scientists and emerge, with luck, as the informed citizenry that a high-tech society needs (Nigel Hawkes writes).

That, at least, is the theory behind the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which celebrates its 151st annual meeting here this week. Often written off as a Victorian relic, no longer relevant to the future of Britain, the BA mysteriously continues to flourish, attracting outstanding scientists and a growing audience of lay people.

The organiser of this year's meeting, Connie Martin, is "absolutely delighted" that a record 2,500 people have registered to attend. A further 2,000 are expected to come in from the local area for the odd day. They will be able to listen to 300 lectures, some brilliant, some strange, and some,

it has to be admitted, slightly mad. In many lecture halls it has been standing room only.

The choice is catholic, ranging from off-beat topics such as "Is God left-handed?" — a lecture in the chemistry section of the programme — to an account of deforestation and industrial pollution in the Middle Ages. Later in the week, a geologist from Switzerland is answering the perplexing question "Is Gaius Endothermic?" while a Japanese professor will discuss the impact of Western science on 17th century China.

At the Hands On science exhibition, children can confront some real scientific principles in the form of games — balancing a beachball on a current of air, or producing perspective drawings with a device invented by Leonardo.

Once scientists used association meetings to report original research results. James Joule, the scientist who took a thermometer on his honeymoon and used it to measure the difference

in temperature between the top and bottom of a waterfall, chose BA meeting to announce his discovery of the value of the mechanical equivalent of heat. Sir Henry Bessemer announced his steelmaking process at a BA meeting in 1856 and Sir Oliver Lodge demonstrated wireless transmission in 1894.

In 1860, the year after the publication of *The Origin of Species*, there was the legendary clash at the Oxford meeting of the association between Darwin's defender, T. H. Huxley, and the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce. Few arguments this week will have the resonance of that debate, when scientific theory collided with religious certainty and emerged the winner.

Today, scientists save their newest work for the professional journals or for specialist meetings, but those who believe with their president, Sir Claus Moser, that "few things are more important than the search for and the dissemination of

knowledge", dig out some interesting facts and figures for the association.

The atmosphere at a BA meeting is confusing, but cheerful. The audience ranges from those who have been coming for over half a century to schoolchildren. Many sessions take place at the same time, involving difficult decisions about whether to plunge into physics, chemistry, geology, or another of the 16 sections which each organise their own programmes.

The 1980s were not especially happy years for science, with many complaints about declining budgets and standards, but the BA meeting has never been a glum event. The lecturers may declare that intellectual life as we knew it is no longer possible, but do so in a cheerful manner and then repair to South Wales's best fish and chip shop in The Mumbles, as they did after Sir Claus Moser's presidential address on Monday. The scientists seldom stay all week unless they are

office holders. The permanent cast are the audience, people who enjoy getting to grips with the difficult concepts of modern science and do not mind the rigours of student accommodation.

The association's credo is that science is too important, and too interesting, to be left to the scientists. It is a survival from a better world, where the educated man could expect to be conversant with the whole of knowledge. As science has become professionalised, the BA has defiantly retained its amateur status.

Its message, too, seems to have been remarkably consistent. The prime mover in its foundation was David Brewster, editor of the *Edinburgh Journal*, who declared that triumph in the Napoleonic wars had blinded Britain to the achievements of her philosophers, while "her scientific institutions had been discouraged and even abolished". There is more than an echo of that cry from many quarters here this week.

Sunbathers warned of rise in fatal skin cancer

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FATAL form of skin cancer caused by over-exposure to sunlight is increasing rapidly in Britain, and damage to the ozone layer might lead to a further big increase in the number of victims, a leading dermatologist said yesterday.

About 3,500 cases of malignant melanoma and some 800 deaths a year from the disease are now being recorded in Britain, an 80 per cent increase on the rates of ten years ago, Ron Mackie, professor of dermatology at Glasgow university, said.

The condition is increasing more quickly than any other malignancy, apart from lung cancer, and is affecting more young people than before, including women in their twenties and thirties. Women are twice as likely as men to contract the disease, presumably because of their liking for sunbathing. Professor Mackie said:

Short periods of intensive sun exposure are a key factor in the development of the disease. "This is exactly the type of sun exposure encountered on a Mediterranean holiday by an individual who has normally an indoor job and unacquainted with skin," Professor Mackie said. The risks were not confined to foreign holidays, however. "In the sort of heatwave we have had recently, the back garden can be as dangerous as the beach in Majorca."

The rise of skin cancer in Britain is part of a worldwide trend. Half the population of Australia has a mild form of the disease by the age of 40, and in America, 30 per cent of all malignancies are cancers of the skin. An estimated 27,000 new cases of malignant melanoma and 6,000 deaths from it

Salmonella bacteria 'may be a lifesaver'

SALMONELLA, the bane of the food industry and scourge of the health department, has emerged as a potential lifesaver (Thomson Prentice writes).

Scientists have discovered that the bacterium seems to be a perfect vehicle for new vaccines against such diseases as malaria, tetanus, typhoid and possibly AIDS, although the work is still at an early stage. Researchers at Cambridge University and at the Wellcome pharmaceutical company, together with doctors in the United States, have produced experimental versions of some of the vaccines, now being tested.

More than 2,000 different types of salmonella exist, causing a wide range of diseases. The bacteria have been used for some time in vaccines against typhoid fever and salmonellosis in animals.

The new compounds consist of live but harmless salmonella bacteria and genetically engineered extracts from other infectious organisms. The combination appears to be highly efficient in giving protection against specific diseases, Carlos Hormaeche, one of the researchers, said yesterday.

Dr Hormaeche, of the microbiology and parasitology unit at Cambridge University, said: "We are very excited. This is a totally unexpected spin-off from our main work." Dr Hormaeche said that he and Gordon Dougan, a Wellcome scientist carrying out much of the work, believed the new vaccines had enormous potential.

The value of the new approach was that the experimental vaccines could induce immunity in human cells, which could then kill the infecting organisms, he said. Tests so far show the vaccines to be effective against tetanus, influenza and malaria. The objective is to produce oral vaccines, which would be cheaper and safer than injectable versions.

Leading article, page 11



Water babies: Jenny Heath, aged eight, and James Lloyd-Jones, aged seven, taking part in Science 90's water detectives scheme yesterday. The children were monitoring pollution and aqueous life in a stream near Swansea University

Pollution damage to trees doubted

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SURVEY of the health of trees across Britain shows no evidence that they are being damaged by air pollution outside industrial areas. John Lanes of the Forestry Commission told the association

The survey, involving 350 plots containing more than 8,400 trees that are visited annually by forest surveyors, was prompted by fears that widespread air pollution threatened forests. Deterioration of West German forests has been attributed to acid rain and similar damage has been detected in many parts of continental Europe.

Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Scots pine, oak and beech were examined in the survey. Density of the tree's crown is used to assess its health. Many British trees have thin crowns, but there was no evidence in the three years of the survey that their condition worsened, or that thin crowns are the result of pollution rather than rainfall or the lack of it, frost and insect attack.

Of the species examined, no clear trend was observed for four, while beech have improved each year. Crown condition varies so much from year to year that surveys will have to be conducted for many years before a clear trend can be discerned. Direct comparisons are impossible.

Results over the past ten years show that unless pollution is increased well above that common in urban areas, plants are undamaged and the yield may be improved if the presence of the sulphur dioxide kills off infecting fungi.

Stress lingered for Lockerbie police

POLICE officers involved in the aftermath of the Lockerbie disaster were unprepared for the experience and many suffered both psychologically and physically, the British Association was told yesterday (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Margaret Mitchell, of the Department of Psychology at the University of Glasgow, said that new cases of post-traumatic stress syndrome were still appearing among

police, ambulance and fire officers involved in clearing up after the bombing.

The effects of the disaster were shown in greatly increased sickness sick leave among police officers. Short-term absences increased by 60 per cent, and long-term absences by 22 per cent. Some officers could not come to terms with the disaster, even for some time afterwards.

One video-recorded every television news item or documentary about Lockerbie and played them repeatedly in an attempt to bring some meaning from the awful event.

Miss Mitchell said that those involved in disasters tried to explain the traumatic events to themselves, and can be helped greatly by debriefing after the event by senior officers. To avoid psychological ill-health, she recommended two procedures, the regular dissemination of information during the operation, and extensive debriefing.

One particular difficulty for police officers was that they were accustomed to being able to use their own initiative, but in the Lockerbie operation they were unable to. This contributed to a feeling of loss of control combined with the horror of the disaster to cause psychological disturbance.

Fat, smoky old Uncle Norman, testament to bad living

UNCLE Norman, aged 94, polished off the last of his fried egg, bacon, sausage and chips, lit his 60th cigarette of the day, and thumbed his nose at health education yesterday (Thomson Prentice writes).

Fat and florid, fond of beer and allergic to exercise, Uncle Norman was produced as an example of how the stereotyped candidate for heart disease, as viewed by the medical establishment, can be contradicted in real life.

According to Charlie Davison, a Bristol university researcher, health educators are guilty of a form of worthy dishonesty, especially in the field of heart disease prevention. "The broadcasting of propaganda based on half-truth, simplification and distortion is a legitimate use of public funds, so long as the goal is the good of the community," Dr Davison, research fellow in medical anthropology, said. The

educators took the view that individuals could not or would not change their habits unless they were encouraged to expect a reward. Such approaches ran the risk of producing mass scepticism, he said.

"Health education in Britain has never come to terms with the complex relationship between the individual and the collective in the field of health and illness."

Dr Davison has conducted a survey of public perceptions of health, illness and the avoidance of heart disease. The results suggest that while much health education advice on fatty foods, smoking, obesity and exercise is heeded, many people regard fate, diet and destiny as equally relevant.

Dr Davison summed this up in a paper, presented to the association, entitled "Uncle Norman and the last person." The public recognise cases of people who should be candidates for heart disease, but live to a healthy old age, as in "my Uncle

Norman smoked 80 a day and lived till 94," Dr Davison said. Similarly, heart victims who seem to be the very opposite of the classic candidate often have heart attacks, as in "he was the last person you'd expect to have a coronary".

Dr Davison said that it had become common currency that many deaths attributed to heart disease were preventable.

"The core of the notion is that in many cases, damage to the circulatory system is caused by identifiable behaviours which theoretically could be modified or eliminated. Turning this theory into practice has been the task of a plethora of public and private bodies whose activities have encompassed fund-raising, research, political and professional lobbying, and direct public education."

Dr Davison questioned their success and doubted the value of an approach which tried to instill the idea that heart disease is

strongly linked to behaviours and conditions which could be changed by the triumph of self-control over self-indulgence. The strong implication was that much heart disease was attributable either to ignorance or to a lack of self-discipline.

This led to the widespread belief among the health-conscious that many heart disease sufferers brought it upon themselves.

"However, it should be noted that the sudden heart stoppage is something of a preferred form of death. Dropping dead from a heart attack is widely seen as a quick, natural and relatively painless death, in comparison with cancers, respiratory disorders and traumatic accidents, and many profess to desire that end, given the choice," Dr Davison said. "We have even detected evidence of a jocular attitude among some men in the more thrusting end of the business community that sees a

heart attack as something of a status symbol and proof that success has been earned by hard work."

The health education approach that certain types of individuals are heart disease candidates was undermined by the survey results showing that almost any type of person could be a candidate.

"There are risks attached to the lives of rich, high-flying executives and to those of impecunious manual labourers. A sedentary life is seen as risky, but so is a life of over-strenuous exercise."

"A strong element of the public image of heart disease, and of the sudden fatal heart attack in particular, is that it is a random killer," Dr Davison said. "Even though most of our informants have professed the opinion that heart disease is to some extent preventable or postponable, the idea that it could happen to anyone, at any time, is omnipresent."

Civic pride contrasts with local gloom in a tale of two towns



A city once dubbed the Queen of the Midlands and a small port in the North-East represent the best and the worst in British urban life if a magazine survey is to be believed. Lin Jenkins visited Nottingham and Peter Davenport went to Blyth to discover how they differed.

RECHRY sets were selling faster than the flight of Robin Hood's arrows yesterday at the tourist centre that celebrates the city's most famous law-breaker.

Paul Morris, aged seven, hovered briefly over a stack of sword and shield sets before plumping for the bows and arrows. Like scores of other youngsters he had just visited the Robin Hood "living experience" and was well versed in his home city's medieval traditions.

Judging by Nottingham's top position in a survey to find the best cities to live in conducted for Moneywise magazine, it could be expected that outlaws stealing from the rich would no longer be a big problem.

Nottingham, though, polled at seventeenth in terms of crime in the survey of 63 cities. Det Chief Supt John Hopley, head of Nottingham CID, was a little dubious as to whether people

people's perceptions bore much relation to the statistics he provides for the Home Office. "As many people know we actually have a high incidence of crime in the city," he said.

Peter Smithers, an insurance broker aged 28, has a more light-hearted explanation. "It's all the women," he explained. "They outnumber men by three to two so there are plenty to choose from, but on a more serious level they probably help make it a nicer more friendly and safer city than many others."

Nottingham earned its top place in a survey which took into account the cost of living based on the cost of meat, swimming pool entrance fees, a gallon of petrol, all-day car parking charges, rents and the cost of a one-mile taxi journey. Also calculated were rankings on litter, health care, crime, housing and education.

The city has extensive parkland and modern redevelopment has been sympathetic to its past.

"It's a lovely city," said Paul's mother Caroline Morris. "There are so many things to do and we have

plenty of bargains among the stalls in the market square. Civic pride, however, was a commodity that was harder to find.

While the survey had put the port at the bottom of the list, anyone expecting an outpouring of local indigna-

tion would have been disappointed. In an admittedly unscientific sample of six residents shopping in the morning sunshine, no one could be found with a good word to say for the town.

Carl Wilson, aged 38, has been driving his taxi around the town for seven years. "I work here but I wouldn't live here. It's just got nothing going for it." Annette Clarington, out shopping with her two young daughters, said she was not surprised at Blyth's lowly ranking.

There is vandalism and litter everywhere you walk and there are shops with their windows broken."

Blyth has a population of 35,000. Once a centre for coalmining and shipbuilding its last pit closed five years ago and there have been no shipyards for over 20 years.

Council officials yesterday condemned the survey as "frivolous" and were anxious to point out that Blyth was a town in transition, moving from an old, heavy industrial centre to a modern

community based on towards a diverse economy which includes engineering, electronics, pharmaceuticals and clothing. Blyth's employ 700 at its manufacturing plant on the local Kielder industrial estate.

Unemployment is down to less than 10 per cent although the figure masks problem areas where it remains worryingly higher.

A £10 million shopping centre is under construction and there are plans to redevelop the derelict quayside. The port remains busy exporting coal and importing

Michael Dungworth, leader of the Labour council said the survey was grossly unfair in its findings and in the way it was assembled. "What did they do — interview 12 people on a wet Sunday in the middle of Blyth? I have every confidence that it is a good place to live and work."

Perhaps the person with the least enviable job yesterday was Heather Latimer who is Blyth Valley's public relations officer. At least, she said, the survey had put the town on the map.



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Enquiry into crime squad 'not blocked by police'

By CRAIG SETON

THE Police Complaints Authority yesterday ruled out the possibility that former members of the West Midlands serious crime squad had obstructed the investigation into claims that officers of the elite unit had fabricated evidence. But the authorities admitted that one year after the £1 million enquiry began six important files and seven police pocket-books were still missing.

It also revealed that documents were believed to be missing from the headquarters of the squad at a Birmingham police station. This had not been secured on behalf of the investigation team until several days after Mr Geoffrey Dear, the former West Midlands chief constable, disbanded the unit last August and ordered an urgent investigation into its affairs.

Roland Moyle, the authority's deputy chairman, said at a Birmingham press conference yesterday that the missing papers, including documents from files that had been recovered, were bound to hamper the progress of the investigation by Donald Shaw, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, which the authority is supervising.

Mr Moyle confirmed that so far no former members of the squad had been suspended and no prosecutions had been launched. He said that several detectives against whom allegations had been made had not been interviewed by the enquiry team because they were on sick leave as a result of stress.

The authority also confirmed that most allegations against the squad involved less than ten of a hard-core of its former officers.

Mr Moyle said: "We are not in a position to say that our enquiry has been deliberately frustrated. There is no evi-

dence of any mass attempt to frustrate the investigation by removing files. Officers going on sick leave is part of the normal experience of an investigation and there is no evidence at all of anybody 'swinging the lead' in order to avoid the consequences of their actions."

The serious crime squad was disbanded by Mr Dear after the collapse of several important criminal trials following allegations that detectives had fabricated statements by suspects. Mr Dear, now inspector of constabulary for the Midlands, called in Mr Shaw to investigate the squad's activities between 1986 and 1989 during which time his officers made 754 arrests. Evidence in those cases is now being reexamined.

Since the enquiry began 85 people, 37 of them in prison, have made formal complaints against the squad. Fifty-six detectives who belonged to the unit have now had more than 530 individual allegations made against them. Of the 669 crime squad files that are being investigated, 663 have been recovered. The six that are still missing contain prosecution papers in criminal cases and include custody records and original police interview notes. Three of these files relate to current complaints against squad members.

Jeff Crawford, the Police Complaints Authority officer in charge of day-to-day supervision of the West Yorkshire investigation, said yesterday that

two reports had been completed and one was with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The enquiry is expected to be completed by the end of this year or early next year when reports will be submitted to the DPP for a decision.

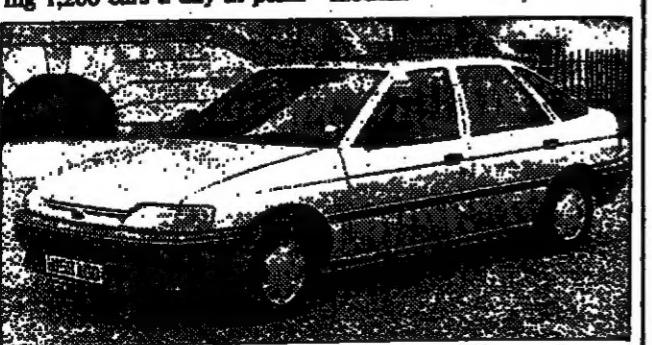
Debut today for Escort successor

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD unveils its most important weapon in the fight to win back sales today with the launch of a successor to the Escort.

The Escort, and the Orion saloon version, are vital to Ford's ability to remain Britain's largest car manufacturer at a time when the company has been selling cars at big discounts to lure customers in a declining market. The car is also essential to the company's British manufacturing base, because Ford has transferred production of the Sierra mid-range model from Dagenham, Essex, to Belgium.

More than £600 million has been invested at Halewood, Merseyside, as a main source for the Escort and Orion, which account for 41 per cent of Ford sales in Britain. The 9,000 workforce will be making 1,200 cars a day at peak.



This year's model: the Escort LX, one of the cars in Ford's new range aimed at the "compact" market

Conservation 'is its own worst enemy'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CONSERVATION has been its own worst enemy for the past six decades, an international animal welfare and environment conference was told yesterday.

Ian Swinland, director of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, said that in the name of conservation, people have been separated from resources deemed important by governments, international organisations and experts. Dr Swinland said that had stimulated the destruction of the environment, animals and species. It had also led to an increase in poaching, pet dealing and mineral extraction and the degradation of planters and the leisure industry.

"When people design a national park, particularly in the tropics, it has been a characteristic that they chuck local people out. Then they are surprised when poaching begins and the whole thing starts falling apart. Unless we bring people back in, and give back

to them what has been taken away, we will never be successful in conservation."

The three-day conference at Oxford, organised by the RSPCA, is designed to bring experts on animal welfare and the environment together under one roof. Dr Swinland said: "They have been divorced for far too long, yet the information we need in order to present our arguments is identical."

Joan Feltouse, chairman of the RSPCA council, said that some people in the animal welfare movement regarded environmentalists as grand strategists, while some environmentalists still used terms such as "bunny huggers" for those in the animal welfare world.

The most radical suggestion at the conference came from Richard Ryder, vice-chairman of the RSPCA council, who called for a "green army" to be mobilised in peacetime to create an "environmental commando force".



Maqbool Fida Husain sketching at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, yesterday for a painting in aid of its Nehru Gallery Appeal

Painting to raise funds for gallery

By RAY CLANCY

ONE of India's most popular contemporary artists is working at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London on a painting to raise funds for its £2.2 million Nehru Gallery appeal.

Maqbool Fida Husain, aged 75, who is known for turning up at parties unexpectedly, forgetting appointments and walking barefooted into five-star hotels, is on a short visit to Britain and yesterday was at the museum making sketches for his painting.

A striking Bohemian figure, with white hair and beard, he began his career as a cinema hoarding painter, but now his work is shown at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Tate Gallery, London.

Wearing traditional Indian robes, he spent the day sketching in the museum's plaster cast courts, which house many beautiful statues dating from the 1860s to the 1930s.

Prints will be taken from the painting he produces and will be sold in aid of the gallery, which will house a permanent exhibition of the museum's Indian collection and initiate an educational programme.

The gallery, named after Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian statesman, is to be opened by the Queen in November.

TEES/SIDE

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A recent national survey of the quality of life in 38 of Britain's urban areas ranked Teesside ninth. London was 34th. What placed Teesside so high? Chiefly, reasonable cost of living, high quality reasonably priced housing, good shopping and leisure facilities, and excellent access to fine scenery. But Teesside scored right across the lifestyle spectrum – particularly when compared with the South East. Teesside's weekly shopping basket is the sixth cheapest in the land. Teesside's nursery school provision is twice the national average, its 'O' Level attainment above the national figure with excellent choice of State and private schools, the further education facilities

within its reach extensive and wide ranging. Public expenditure on health is higher; hospital waiting lists shorter. And the magnificent scenery? The 36 miles of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Heritage Coast, the 550 square miles of the North York Moors National Park, the 680 square miles of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the upper reaches of the River Tees with its spectacular waterfalls. Teesside – the sum of its parts puts it in the Top Ten. To find out more contact Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel 0642 230636. Fax 0642 230843.



TEES/SIDE

Initiative Talent Ability

Use of hotel rooms for homeless can be cut, councils told

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

IF LOCAL authorities managed their housing better the number of temporary rooms, properties and bed and breakfast hotels used to help the homeless could be cut, according to a report out today.

It says the use of bed and breakfast properties to shelter the homeless is unacceptably high and rebukes some councils for being too slow in allocating tenants to properties let by housing associations. It also wants more information on empty government properties to establish if they could be made available to local authorities to house the homeless, of which there were estimated to be more than 300,000 in England last year.

The National Audit Office report says that between 1982 and last year the number of families put in temporary rooms or property increased fourfold, but many of them were sheltered in "unsatisfactory and expensive" bed and breakfast hotels. Paying for bed and breakfast accommodation cost an estimated £143 million in 1987 to 1988, and the report says that bed and breakfast charges in-

creased by 245 per cent between 1984 and 1987, ten times greater than the rise in the retail price index. However, only 10 per cent of local authorities use bed and breakfast hotels extensively to help the homeless.

"The use of bed and breakfast properties has been widely condemned on the grounds that they usually offer the lowest standards at the highest costs", it adds.

The report by John Bourne, the comptroller and auditor general, says that a government attempt to tackle homelessness and cut down on the use of bed and breakfast hotels by providing 15,000 extra lettings would not be successful unless additional funds were provided. It says the government should spend money on the worst affected areas, calls on local authorities to manage their existing housing stock better and urges better links between housing associations and councils.

The report adds that the extent of homelessness in England is difficult to establish as there are no reliable estimates of the number of

people sleeping rough on the streets of London and other large cities. The report says that the reasons why people become homeless have changed little in recent years.

The environment department recognises that figures produced by local authorities in April last year showing there were 14,900 public sector residential properties lying empty in their areas were an underestimate.

Treasury figures showed that during this year and last 35,100 residential properties, including 16,500 belonging to local health authorities, were lying empty. Although some were vacant for operational reasons and others have been acquired for demolition, the report says lack of information makes it difficult to work out to what extent empty government property could be made available for the homeless. "Clearly not all empty government property would be suitable for housing the homeless because of security and location," it adds.

Homelessness. Report by the comptroller and auditor general, National Audit Office (Stationery Office £6.10)



Crime watch: PC Nick Walker takes to two wheels on one of Leighton Buzzard police station's mountain bikes

PCs' bikes catch up with the criminal

By ROBIN YOUNG

ONE of the first police patrols to use modern mountain bicycles has been established in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The patrol has already proved its worth after an officer riding one of the sturdy bicycles arrested three young men trying to steal a car.

The introduction of the two mountain bicycles, provided by Cycles Peugeot, was the idea of PC Nick Walker. He submitted a report, using their use, not knowing that they had been adopted elsewhere. He has since learnt that the bikes were so successful in Seattle, in America, that people waited in cars with CB radios outside police stations to broadcast warnings to the criminal fraternity when the bicycles went on patrol.

The Bedfordshire arrests were made on the first night of the bicycle patrol. "A foot officer would not have been fast enough to catch them, and if they had heard a police car coming they would have gone into hiding," PC Walker said. "The bikes have the advantages of being quiet, fast."

He added: "The bikes help us cover the patch more quickly and efficiently, and make it seem there are more police about. They can play a major part in cutting crime."

Move to drop poll tax for prisoners

By QUENTIN COVETRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS would be exempt from paying poll tax under government proposals aimed at closing a loophole which allowed some councils to charge inmates whose homes were unoccupied.

Ministers had always intended that prisoners should pay nothing, but, said a local authority in an attempt to boost community charge income, have treated single prisoners, known as second properties, Westminster and Haringey councils in London even proposed charging such prisoners at double the normal rate.

It emerged yesterday that the government, as part of its first review of the implementation of the community charge, told councils that prisoners should be exempt, but not the charge. Statutory regulations confirming the principle will be passed later this year.

Last November, after strong protests from penal reformers and prisoners' rights' groups, the government gave councils discretion to waive the standard charge in respect of prisoners who left homes unoccupied on entering jail. But several authorities decided not to do so.

The government's latest move was welcomed yesterday by penal reformers who described it as a "victory for common sense". Paul Cavardino, senior press officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of

Offenders, said: "Ministers have accepted that prisoners should be exempted for the simple and obvious reason that such people have no income and are therefore in no position to pay the charge."

"Without this change many inmates would have fallen into serious debt which, on their release, would have increased the likelihood of them re-offending."

The association says that "scores" of prisoners had faced poll tax charges, with some inmates affected in all 120 prisons in England and Wales. Both unconvicted and sentenced inmates would have been liable to the tax.

Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said many single prisoners would have lost their homes had councils been allowed to treat them as second properties.

Judgment was reserved yesterday in the High Court yesterday on the challenge by Chris Patten, environment secretary, to Haringey council's decision to set a new poll tax charge of £5.16 instead of a capping £2.00. The judges hope to give their ruling on Friday.

Mr Patten wants the court to quash as unlawful the north London council's decision to reset the charge. The Labour-controlled authority says it is necessary because of a lower collection rate than expected. Haringey originally set a charge of £5.72 per head, the highest in Britain.

THE TIMES

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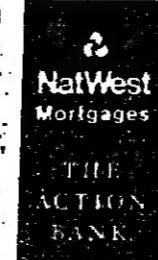
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India plays down artillery duel risk on Kashmir border

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA claimed yesterday that artillery battles with Pakistani troops were continuing across the Kashmir border for the third consecutive day. V. P. Singh, the prime minister, said Pakistan was shelling border posts and India was responding with "appropriate fire".

He told parliament that fighting was now confined to one area of the meandering border, most of which cuts through mountains and forests. Islamabad and Delhi were in direct contact and there was no cause for "undue concern". India was fully capable of dealing with any eventualities.

Mr Singh, although expressing worry about the heaviest fighting that supposedly took place on Monday, sought to play down the significance of the exchanges. "We trust that these localised incidents will be contained and the situation

defused," he said. Mr Singh claimed that, during an earlier artillery clash, on August 12, India had demolished 12 Pakistani "structures" 300 yards from the border and had beaten back Pakistani troops. The action had conveyed the message to Pakistani forces that "they cannot take us by surprise" and that no foreigner could set foot on Indian soil.

The mood in India is far less belligerent over Kashmir than it is in Pakistan, where the military-backed caretaker government is under pressure to adopt hardline policies. Mr Singh, by contrast, has fended off recent political challenges and is able to resist playing the Kashmir card.

The opposite is true in Pakistan. Since Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister, was toppled on August 6 the armed forces have assumed complete control of Kashmir

policy, without political restraint. There is no longer appears to be any inclination to negotiate a mutual withdrawal of forces from the border, although Pakistan denies Indian claims that it is building up troop strengths.

The government of the semi-autonomous region of "Azad" (free) Kashmir is also raising the political heat over Kashmir. It is headed by Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's party, making it the party's only important political base left intact. Because of its semi-independent status it survived pressure from the newly installed Islamabad government to dissolve itself and appoint an acting government pending fresh elections. All four Pakistani provinces are run by caretaker governments, with fresh elections due a few days after the National Assembly poll.

Mumtaz Rathore, elected in the early summer as prime minister of Azad Kashmir, is a long-time Bhutto loyalist who spent more than two years in jail during General Zia's military rule. He is now an important focus for the People's party's attempt at an electoral comeback. Since Miss Bhutto's dismissal he has increased increasingly aggressive policies over Kashmir.

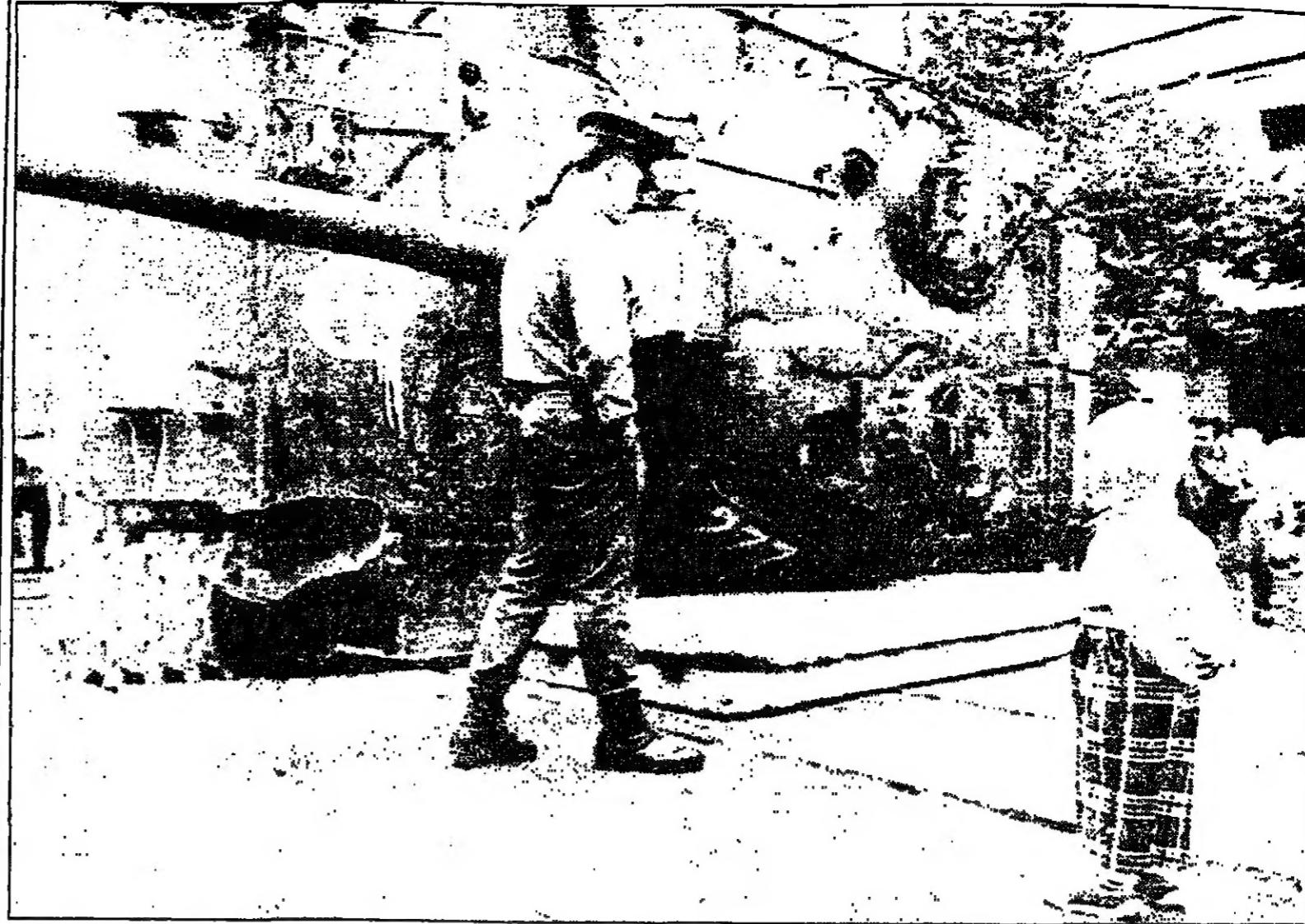
He advocates compulsory military training for all Kashmiri males, as well as for Indian Kashmiris living in refugee camps. He announced the formation of a Kashmiri national bank and said all other banks should leave. He is sending representatives to the United Nations to claim that his government is the only legitimate administration in Pakistani Kashmir. And he is writing to all heads of Commonwealth governments to seek political support.

President Doe, holed up with several hundred troops at his Executive Mansion in Monrovia, and Mr Johnson have accepted the intervention. But the rebel group of Charles Taylor, which controls most of Liberia, vehemently opposes any external interference.

Diplomats said there was now a serious risk that the peacekeeping force would end up fighting pitched battles against Mr Taylor's soldiers.

• PAYNESVILLE: Mr Taylor yesterday dismissed West African peace moves as a plot to thwart him. He also claimed that Mr Johnson was dead and was being impersonated.

He said Mr Johnson had been killed in an ambush and his body taken to a hospital mortuary. Western journalists who saw the body could not identify it because of a facial wound. Mr Taylor's group announced Mr Johnson's death last week, but he later appeared in public to deny it. (AFP)



A Czechoslovak child studies a T-55 tank overturned in Prague yesterday to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Warsaw Pact invasion that crushed the "Prague Spring" of 1968. This is the first time Czechoslovakia has been able openly to commemorate the anniversary of the uprising without fear of police retaliation. On Monday, the eve of the invasion anniversary, Alexander Dubcek, the architect of the short-lived 1968 reforms, hailed the new reality of a

Czechoslovakia. "Truth has prevailed," the former Communist leader told state television. "The Sword of Damocles is not hanging over us any more." Mr Dubcek is now the Speaker of Czechoslovakia's first non-Communist parliament in 42 years. Just one year ago, helmeted riot police waded into thousands of protesters commemorating the Soviet-led invasion and those who had fought it. The

demonstrators last year had been calling for democracy and the withdrawal of Soviet troops who stayed in Czechoslovakia after the 1968 invasion. Less than three months later even larger protests led to the resignation of Czechoslovakia's Communist government. Yesterday members of the "Jester Society" student group planned to swarm through Prague in a mock invasion.

Troops poised to halt Liberia war

From REUTER IN FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

TROOPS of a 3,000-strong West African peacekeeping force boarded warships in Sierra Leone yesterday with orders to halt the eight-month civil war in neighbouring Liberia.

The soldiers from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia planned to sail to the capital Monrovia later in the day, normally a voyage of about 24 hours.

Thousands of civilians have been killed in Liberia, in largely tribal fighting between President Doe's soldiers and two rebel groups, which are also fighting each other.

American helicopters operating from warships offshore, evacuated 825 foreigners — including an Iraqi — from Monrovia at the weekend. Over the past two weeks they have evacuated nearly 1,500 foreigners.

The city's harbour is controlled by a small rebel group led by Prince Johnson, who favours foreign intervention in the conflict.

Diplomats said the loading of equipment in Freetown began on Monday afternoon and continued through the night. The peacekeeping force, formed under the auspices of



Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, and the South African foreign minister, R. F. "Pik" Botha, after meeting to discuss black violence yesterday. The two men, and Adrian Vlok, the law and order minister, appealed to political leaders to strive for peace. Chief Buthelezi repeated his call for talks with Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president.

Serbs protest after rumour of Croat censure for police

From DESNA TREVISEN IN BELGRADE

SEVERAL thousand angry Serbs took to the streets of Knin in Dalmatia yesterday, threatening to take up arms again after rumours spread that three local policemen who sided with the Serbian insurrection during the turmoil in the town last week were to be suspended by the Croatian authorities.

The crowd dispersed after the chief of the local police, himself a Serb, assured them that the authorities in Zagreb, the capital of the Yugoslav republic, had pledged not to take disciplinary action.

In an atmosphere where rumours abound and where the Serbian newspapers are

doing their utmost to stoke up the tension with stories of threats against the Serbs, the population is ready to believe that anything the Croatian authorities say is part of a campaign of psychological warfare against Serbia and its leader, Slobodan Milosevic.

Franjo Tudjman, the president of Croatia, has convened an extraordinary parliamentary session tomorrow. He is under pressure from radicals in his right-wing party to outlaw the Serbian Democratic Party, whose extreme elements are said to have engineered the insurrection in Croatia which threatened to spark civil war in Yugoslavia.

The deadline to hand back weapons stolen or distributed by local policemen has expired but armed Serbs are still roaming the countryside. Reports from neighbouring villages speak of Croatian inhabitants demanding arms in self-defence. Divisions between the Serbs and the Croats now extend to work places as well as public transport. Croatian buses refuse to stop in Serbian villages or carry Serbian passengers and vice-versa.

Police in the Knin region remain adamant in refusing to wear the new uniforms

ordered by Croatia's non-communist government. The old communist emblems, red flags and red stars, have been discarded and the new uniform carries the red chessboard, the traditional Croatian national emblem. The Serbs claim that the new uniforms has associations with the wartime fascist regime.

Last week his sister, Zofia-Elena, and his older brother, Valentin, were released from prison after a Bucharest military tribunal determined that the investigation into their alleged crimes of "undermining the national economy" can be carried out "without maintaining their state of preventative detention".

The man's partner and her mentally ill daughter were said to have taken part in torturing the women. The Armenian man, identified only by his assumed name of Stanislav Nikolaeievich Chaplygin, ensured his young victims, who were often fresh from the country, in central Moscow in broad daylight. A lurid account of Chaplygin's crimes, headed "Cruel tales", covered most of the back page of the trade union paper, *Trud*, yesterday.

Police in the Knin region remain adamant in refusing to wear the new uniforms

Dictator's son pleads ill health at trial

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SIBIU

NICU Ceausescu, the youngest son of Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's deposed Communist dictator, yesterday demanded the military court trying him that the case be suspended and he be freed because of his failing health.

His demands are designed to steal the political initiative and score political points for the People's party. Now Miss Bhutto is out of government she, too, can afford to sound much more belligerent, elevating Kashmir in importance in the election campaign and heightening cross-border tensions with India.

• KARACHI: Pakistan has denied that 11 hijackers of the Soviet TU154 passenger plane, who surrendered here on Monday, were being extradited to the Soviet Union (Zahid Hussein writes). The hijackers, aged between 18 and 22, are being held by the Pakistan army.

He said Mr Johnson had been killed in an ambush and his body taken to a hospital mortuary. Western journalists who saw the body could not identify it because of a facial wound. Mr Taylor's group announced Mr Johnson's death last week, but he later appeared in public to deny it. (AFP)

Former KGB chief tops poll in tense contest

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

GENERAL Oleg Kalugin, the former head of Soviet counter-intelligence, who is competing to become a member of the Soviet parliament, topped the poll in Krasnodar at the weekend but failed to gain the percentage of votes necessary to win the seat outright.

He will now have to fight a second round against the runner-up, a popular local worker, Nikolai Gorovoy.

General Kalugin became a national celebrity in June after he publicly criticised the KGB for persisting in old-style practices and disregarding perestroika. He was stripped of his rank and awards by presidential decree and the KGB has threatened to take him to court for divulging state secrets, an accusation the general strenuously denies.

The Krasnodar parliamentary seat was vacated by Ivan Polozkov when he was elected first secretary of the newly created Russian Federation Communist party. It is regarded as a politically

conservative constituency, with strong local loyalties. General Kalugin's candidacy had been expected to split the voters.

At the spring parliamentary elections the trend was for city dwellers to support those candidates who were either identifiable hostile to the party establishment or who stood on a law-and-order platform. In the event he polled 44.93 per cent of the votes in a contest which was described by *Pravda* as "unusually antagonistic, tense and sometimes straying beyond the bounds of the permissible". Nikolai Gorovoy received 10.66 per cent. The second round will be held on September 2. The turn-out, at 60 per cent, was low in Soviet terms, was low in Soviet terms.

General Kalugin's supporters complained of an establishment campaign to prevent his election.

The central press has also published articles purportedly written by former KGB colleagues alleging character de-

fects, including inconsistency, favouritism and vanity, in the former KGB general. One made insinuations about his relations with the CIA when he served as head of the KGB in the United States.

During the election campaign the general filed a civil lawsuit against President Gorbachev, the prime minister and the head of the KGB. The substance of his charges is that he was illegally stripped of his awards, his rank and his pension and should have all reinstated.

• Sanctions call: President Ayaz Mutalibov of Azerbaijan yesterday called for sanctions against Armenia after worsening border clashes over the past three days which have left at least five people dead.

In a televised appeal, Mr Mutalibov said Azerbaijan would have to take action, for which it may request international solidarity, to protect its sovereignty and independence in the face of armed attacks by Armenians. (AFP)

Australia abolishes the dole

Canberra — Australia's Labor government abolished unemployment benefits in a tough budget aimed at reducing welfare payments.

Paul Keating, the treasurer, said that 380,000 people receiving indefinite unemployment benefits of \$AUS 105 (£43) a week each would instead get \$AUS 57 a week for up to 12 months. The savings will be used to service a government debt of about \$AUS 23 billion. (Reuter)

Jogger verdict

Syracuse — A New York jury has convicted a man aged 23 of the 1986 rape, beating and stabbing of a jogger, who staggered two miles for help with a knife in her neck. The jogger, aged 43, suffered brain damage and could not identify her attacker. Sentence is to be passed on September 5. (AP)

Maldives arrest

Colombo — The former Maldives trade and industry minister, who returned from self-imposed exile in Britain early this month, has been placed under house arrest in Male. A committee is investigating allegations of corruption against him.

Generals killed

Taipei — A military transport plane crashed in central Taiwan, killing all 18 servicemen on board including Lin Lung Hsien, the air force deputy chief of staff, and two other generals, a military spokesman said. (AFP)

Escobar reward

Medellin — Colombia has more than doubled the reward for information leading to the arrest of Pablo Escobar, the nation's most-wanted drug trafficker to almost £1 million (£526,000), according to army information. (Reuter)

Shuttle cleared

Cape Canaveral — The space shuttle Columbia is scheduled for a September 1 launch, marking the return to service of the shuttle fleet which has been grounded since May by fuel leaks. The US space agency said. (Reuter)

Brazil sabotage

Brasilia — A sabotage attack on a power pylon created a day-long power cut to most of the Brazilian capital and also affected two other cities. Striking power workers are suspected. (AFP)

Mud buries 10

Mexico City — A mudslide rolling down a mountainside buried part of the remote hamlet of La Luz in the southern state of Oaxaca, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others. (AP)

Students' grant

Peking — About 40 Zairean students ended a six-day occupation of their nation's embassy here after their government promised them \$187,500 (£98,000) in unpaid living allowances and plane tickets home. (AP)

Moscow police claim rare victory in crime wave

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE much-maligned Moscow police force claimed a rare success yesterday with the arrest of a man who terrorised young women and is believed guilty of 13 rapes and three murders.

The man's partner and her mentally ill daughter were said to have taken part in torturing the women. The Armenian man, identified only by his assumed name of Stanislav Nikolaeievich Chaplygin, ensured his young victims, who were often fresh from the country, in central Moscow in broad daylight. A lurid account of Chaplygin's crimes, headed "Cruel tales", covered most of the back page of the trade union paper, *Trud*, yesterday.

Indecent assault, and allegedly turned to rape and murder two years ago after taking up with a woman and her mentally ill daughter.

According to *Trud*, Chaplygin frequented central Moscow, on Red Square, or the main children's shop, Children's World. He would introduce himself to young girls as an executive of the Moscow state film company, Mosfilm, and say his victim was ideal for a starring role in a film he was about the make. He would offer foreign travel, "of course, much of the Soviet film will be shot in Paris"; the Soviet high life; "the film is about young Soviet diplomats"; and, above all, fame.

The victim would be invited back to his home to discuss the contract. Her drink would be drugged, and she would come round on a train miles from Moscow, half-dressed and

suffering a hangover. Those were the lucky ones. The unlucky ones were strangled or knifed and dumped on a waste ground.

According to the police, the rapist spiked his victims' drinks with drugs which his partner obtained illegally from the mental hospital where her daughter was treated. Both mother and daughter were said to have taken part in torturing and disfiguring the girls, and helped to shield the rapist.

Revealing something of the public distrust of the police in the capital, *Trud* said that when the police finally tracked down Chaplygin to a central block of flats, other residents refused to co-operate.

The prominence given by the Soviet press to Chaplygin's arrest may be intended to help raise the morale of the Moscow police. Two weeks ago the force lost a gang of three

New role for socialism

Martin Jacques

Last August we still had little idea what a momentous year 1989 was going to be. Virtually the only straw in the wind had been Tiananmen Square. Yet by November, the world was a quite different place. The geo-political map had been transformed, and the history of socialism, one of the most potent influences of the 20th century, had been profoundly revised.

There has been remarkably little debate in Britain about the meaning of the events of 1989 for the socialist tradition. The assumption has been that it did not mean much. In a sense this is fair, for the socialist tradition here and elsewhere in Western Europe has had little in common with what ruled the roost in Eastern Europe.

But the matter cannot be left there. Socialism has long been thought of as a systemic alternative to capitalism. That, after all, is what clause four of the Labour party constitution is about. And this idea of socialism was one of the casualties of 1989, along with the related idea of socialism as a natural historical progression from capitalism.

Of course, this is old ground for the West European social-democratic tradition. This tradition long ago abandoned the idea of socialism as a long-term ambition or inspirational vision. The Labour party took rather longer to reach this conclusion, but it too appears now, at least in practice, to have arrived at the same destination. Meanwhile, over the last decade, the mainstream social-democratic tradition in Western Europe (with the exception of Sweden) has to a remarkable extent ceased to offer any radical structural alternative.

Western European social democracy may be more successful electorally than it has ever been, yet at no time since the war has it been less distinctive as a political force. Its post-war crusade – the Keynesian project – lies in tatters. In the realm of economic strategy, social democracy these days is not always easy to distinguish from neo-liberalism, as the example of the Spanish government shows.

The reason for the collapse of the Keynesian project lies more in material change than political argument. The internationalisation of economic processes undermined a policy dependent upon the integrity of national economies. Keynesianism in one country became impossible to sustain. As a result, social democracy was deprived of any significant novelty in the economic sphere. The Labour party's latest policy review document bears eloquent testimony to this. Its policy today is essentially confined to the social sphere, to redistribution via the welfare state.

Theoretically, of course, it would be possible to revive a

distinctive economic project on a wider international plane, for instance in the context of the European Community, but that is another matter altogether.

The weakening of the identity of social democracy has other causes too. Originally, social democracy was built on the working class, but that is now but a shadow of its former self. The very culture in which social democracy, including the Labour party, was once embedded is steadily dissolving. And of course its chosen instrument, the state, has lost much of its old shine.

As we approach the end of the millennium, socialism seems less capable of addressing the future than perhaps at any time this century. The Western socialist tradition long ago lost its sense of Utopianism. Even what replaced it, the idea of structural reform, has been weakened. Meanwhile, the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has thoroughly discredited any idea of it being a workable alternative to capitalism.

Yet while socialism is in decline, notions of collectivism are on the rise, but now coloured green rather than red. The new spirit of the age stresses the importance of the universal human interest in preserving nature. It urges a new sense of global equality in the face of climatic warming. Collectivism based on class values may be in retreat, but collectivism based on the environmental imperative is in the ascendant. By contrast, market individualism, which carried all before it in the Eighties, looks dated and inadequate.

The decline of socialism is a result of post-industrialism. New problems and preoccupations mean that the socialist tradition can no longer assume, as it once did, the mantle of the universal historical alternative. The bearer of solutions to all problems. This is not to imply that the socialist tradition will wither, simply that its reach is now more modest and its role more attenuated. It has lost its monopoly of progressive aims and values. It no longer controls that agenda as it did.

Increasingly, the socialist tradition will be forced to defer to and negotiate with other traditions, of which greenery is presently the outstanding example. This does not mean that social-democratic parties will necessarily decline. The West German SPD, for example, has easily withstood the challenge of the Greens and even been renewed by it. Rather, social-democratic parties are likely to remain the dominant parties of European centre-left opinion. But in the process they are likely to become less self-contained, homogeneous and doctrinaire, and ever more porous, hybrid and ecumenical.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Radio 4 is currently running a series called *Radio Lives*. Each week, a major figure from radio's past – Gilbert Harding, C.E.M. Joad, Stephen Potter – is examined in a celebratory portrait.

Some people might worry that the current crop of radio personalities – Derek Jameson, Dave Lee Travis, Gloria Hunniford – will render scant harvest for a similar series 20 years from now. Is there a real Derek Jameson? Is it worth plumbing the shallows of Dave Lee Travis? Would a major profile of Gloria Hunniford reveal a driving passion for the modal logic of Jan Lukasiewicz? From the listener's chair, it seems a little unlikely.

But all is not lost. There is one figure in contemporary radio whose contribution vastly outweighs all others in terms both of extent and quality, a woman of such ubiquity that each facet of her character might happily merit its own profile: Anne Ekspert.

"We have Anne Ekspert in the studio today, to answer any question you might have on the vexed issue of nuclear disarmament." "Earlier this morning, I asked Anne Ekspert what this could mean for the future of East-West relations..." "And I have with me this afternoon Anne Ekspert, who is calling for increased legislation to protect our wild flora and fauna..." "And later in the programme, Anne Ekspert tells us how to cook a three-course dinner for six – and all for under £10." We all recognise the name, but how much do we know of the woman herself?

Born in Sweden, Anne Ekspert showed early signs of the impeccable orderliness that would distinguish her career when, finishing an ice-cream, she called for urgent legislation to prevent the accidental swallowing of wrappers. Her mother, whom she was later to describe affectionately as "an ordinary member of the public", recorded the young Anne's very first words in her Baby Book. They were "health hazard", "affect us all" and "amid increased fears". Even at this early stage, Anne's parents realised she had a natural instinct for what radio required.

By the age of five, Anne had begun to chip in on the conversations of others, adding

a note of authority to their otherwise lacklustre chit-chat. "Warm for the time of year, isn't it," a neighbour once remarked to Mrs Ekspert, only to be sharply corrected by the young Anne. "It is in fact slightly below the seasonal average," she said. "Nevertheless, we welcome all your comments, however ludicrous."

Leaning over neighbourhood fences, she would offer gardening tips to all who needed them, and many who did not. She was always ready to offer consumer advice to busy housewives from her position on the doorstep of the village shop. Health matters were a particular concern. She strongly disapproved of the posture of Barbie Dolls, advising that such inflexibility could lead to serious spinal disorders in later years.

It was the birth of the radio phone-in programme in the London of the early 1970s that saw the burgeoning of Anne Ekspert. In her teenage years, she had selflessly devoted herself to her very own phone-out programmes, in which she would telephone complete strangers, offering them advice on everything from car maintenance to developments in the modern novel. Where once those strangers might have expressed themselves bewildered, not to say irritated, by such an intrusion, they now actively sought it out, spending their own money telephoning radio stations from which Anne Ekspert was broadcasting.

Soon, not only ordinary people were heeding her advice, but governments too. Anne Ekspert today advised the Ministry of Agriculture that the disease is a cause for concern...

"And, later in the programme, Anne Ekspert predicts that Mr Kinnock will be facing a stormy conference..." Anne Ekspert warns that eating can cause cancer..." By the 1980s, she had established herself as the prime force in broadcasting, the one oracle no one thought to question.

Now married – to a Major Alarm – Anne Ekspert has combined her career in broadcasting with bringing up a family. As a new decade dawns, radio producers are only too happy to devote entire programmes to the views of a whole panel of Eksperts, though few of them can quite remember why.

Will Saddam bring about a more united Europe?



Michael Binyon reports on the fragmented EC response
that only now is edging towards Britain's tough line

Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait has left Europe bewildered and divided. Despite swift and unanimous condemnation, it is unsure what to do next. In Brussels, there has been silence. The European Community, lacking a foreign policy and defence role, cannot draw up a military strategy. Until yesterday's meeting of the Western European Union, each country reacted individually, the different interests of Britain, France, Germany and Benelux leading to the piecemeal dispatch of warships, a babbled of different instructions, botched national initiatives and a confused public argument over ends and means.

These divisions have been reflected in widely differing reports in the press, and a gamut of contradictory editorials. Spain, Portugal and Belgium, traditionally aloof from Middle East wars and passions, were slow to recognise the crisis. This was a problem, their governments seemed to think, mainly for the Arabs and the Americans. The Portuguese foreign minister did not even interrupt his holiday to attend the emergency Nato meeting.

The French press, taking its cue from the government, immediately distanced itself from the vigorous Anglo-American response. French commentators were embarrassed that France was Iraq's leading western arms supplier yet confident that France's "even-handed" attitude to the Arabs would give it more influence in Baghdad than the hawks of Washington and London. Opinion polls showed less than 50 per cent in favour of a strong French military presence.

But events have moved swiftly, and so has public opinion. Criticism of the government's soft-sof approach has sharpened because of the official secrecy over the plight of French citizens in Kuwait and Iraq, the swift rise in oil prices and the angry realisation that France was duped into the naive belief that the Palestinian leader, Yassir Arafat, could wangle a special deal for France.

The French are far more sensitive than the British to the continued detention of their hostages in Lebanon. The prospect of 500 more being held captive in the Gulf has aroused anger and revulsion at what is seen as earlier appeasement.

The West German press has reflected government divisions on the action that should be taken,

and whether constitutional limitations bar dispatch of its ships to the Gulf. Right-wing papers such as *Die Welt* have defended the US blockade of Iraq, and applauded Chancellor Kohl's apparent commitment last week to send forces to the Gulf. But the centre and left-wing papers have reflected the insistence by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, that this is undesirable and constitutionally impossible.

The old anxieties about the use of military force have come into play. "The Germany that is being received back into the family of nations does not have to prove to the world right away that it is still skilled in the arts of war," a commentator for the *Suddeutsche Zeitung* said yesterday. Even the conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine* said the Bundeswehr should not become a rapid deployment force, and that German interests are different from those of Britain and the US. Yet the left-wing *Frankfurter Rundschau* insisted that Germany cannot go on standing on the sidelines and citing the constitutional impediments. "Countries claiming full rights of sovereignty also have duties," the paper said.

Genscher is a Free Democrat, and the defence minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, a Christian Democrat; this has muddled the debate over whether a rapid constitutional change is needed to permit direct participation in Gulf operations. But press and politicians alike are more occupied by the row over accelerated reunification. Most papers still see no role for Germany in the Gulf, and old suspicions of American intentions are prominent in the coverage of liberal papers such as *Die Zeit*.

Smaller countries have been quick to react. The Dutch and Belgian press applauded their countries' dispatch of ships to the Gulf. In both countries, there has been a growing disenchantment with the tendency of the big EC members to ignore the smaller, less powerful states as EC representatives.

Italy, which currently holds the EC presidency, quickly launched an EC initiative, convening a meeting of ministers and leading a delegation to Amman, Jeddah and Cairo; but for all its Euro-enthusiasm, Italy has found that the EC has no real role to play. And in contrast to the Gulf war in 1988, Italy was slow to send ships to the Gulf. Editorials have denounced the government for dithering, but most Italians still think the UN should take the lead and 65 per cent are against military involvement.

Many people on the continent initially thought Britain's resolve stand showed a preference for the alliance with America over obligations to the EC, but our initial isolation now looks less exotic and more principled. It took two weeks of public argument and a meeting of the Western European Union, a normally dormant body, to formulate a cohesive and co-ordinated response. Even then there was the almost comical spectacle of ministers from three nations – Ireland, Denmark and Greece – waiting outside in the corridor until the nine participants could change hats and sit down again to discuss the same issue in their roles as EC representatives.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, insists that the lack of a defence dimension in Brussels is nonsensical, and this crisis may reinforce his point and the calls for closer integration. Yet to others, the events of the past week reinforce the view that no European foreign policy could ever stick for long.

David Bloor believes B.F. Skinner's behavioural science theories still have a long way to run

Even a computer can be rewarded...

The behavioural scientist B.F. Skinner, who died last weekend, has been harshly dealt with in the obituaries. While it would be exaggerating to say that he is a hate figure, he certainly had an unfavourable image for much of his life. He is associated with an unflattering picture of human beings as creatures who can be manipulated by external stimuli, lacking creative powers or special characteristics which set them off from the rest of nature. While he did hold many of these views, Skinner's work and ideas are easily underestimated. The fashionable dismissals may yet prove wrong.

Skinner's central idea, called "operant conditioning", is very simple. All organisms, he said,

are spontaneously "emitting" behaviour. Sometimes what they do is rewarded or reinforced, and this increases the chance that they will repeat it. Without reward, natural restlessness and variability generate new behaviour. Fixed and reliable patterns are maintained only through systematic rewards such as food, sexual gratification or more subtle forms of social incentive.

These claims are not merely theoretical. Skinner was primarily an experimenter, and was strongly opposed to building theories prematurely. For many purposes, he said, we could treat an organism as a black box whose contents are unknown. In numerous demonstrations he "shaped" (to use one of his favourite terms) the behaviour of an animal, often a pigeon. He would start giving the animal rewards of food as soon as its behaviour approximated to what he wanted, and then he gradually refined the "rewards schedule" until he got exactly what he required. For example, he and his co-workers were able to make pigeons tirelessly peck at, and hence identify, small misshapen components in a production line. He had trained them in the difficult task of quality control.

How did Skinner get his birds to perform so diligently once he had stopped training them? When rewards are cut off, behaviour will "extinguish", but the secret is to use random and infrequent rewards. Then the extinction can take an enormously long time.

Analogies with human behaviour are immediate and tempting. How should your daughter get rid of that tiresome boyfriend? If

Skinner is right, make sure he does not get random and infrequent rewards for his unwanted attentions, for they will only ensure his ardour is slow to extinguish.

There are many cases in which a dose of Skinnerian thinking might pay dividends. Teachers want to encourage silent pupils to talk and prevent the garrulous ones from hogging the discussion. Skinner would advise them to adjust the reward schedule by carefully controlling the flow of nods and smiles. These ideas might seem cold and manipulative, but there is nothing inhumane about putting into practice one of Skinner's most notable findings: that in encouraging a kind of behaviour, rewarding its occurrence is more effective than punishing its absence.

In the field of human language acquisition, Skinner's name has become a byword for error and reaction. In 1957 he wrote a book in which he extended his principles of operant conditioning to language learning. It was reviewed by the linguistics professor Noam Chomsky, who, in the opinion of most psychologists and linguists, destroyed Skinner's entire approach. If we learn by conditioning, Chomsky asked, why don't

children go around repeating sentences for which they have been rewarded? How can we explain their creative use of language? The argument has ramifications if operant conditioning can generate language, then why can animals not use language? Skinner never replied to this review and Chomsky's idea of the brain as pre-programmed with grammatical rules innate and special to humans has come to dominate.

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

HOLDING TOGETHER

Western European reticence has been the weakest link in the international armoury which the Americans have sought to forge against Iraqi aggression. Since August 10, when the American secretary of state, James Baker, appealed in vain to Nato ministers to join a multinational task force, the only western allies to provide unequivocal support have been Britain, Canada and Australia.

The leaders of Egypt and Turkey have understood from the first that, as Mrs Thatcher said yesterday, "no state will be safe unless Saddam Hussein is stopped". Their courage has stood in sharp contrast to the hesitation of other countries such as France and Italy.

Yesterday's decision by six of the nine governments of the Western European Union to dispatch naval forces to the Gulf in a coordinated operation marks a watershed. International solidarity in enforcing sanctions against Iraq, for which Mrs Thatcher yesterday issued an impassioned appeal, is now, at last, becoming a reality.

All the WEU members except Luxembourg (which has no navy), Portugal (which has yet to decide) and West Germany (which has said it will discuss amendments to its constitution to permit forces to operate in the Gulf) are now committed to military enforcement of UN sanctions. The forces will remain under national commands, but will share intelligence, air cover, and supply ships. The vessels of smaller countries such as Belgium and The Netherlands will sail in small convoys with British ships.

West Germany will meanwhile send further minesweepers to the eastern Mediterranean and is giving American forces in Saudi Arabia tanks equipped to detect chemical weapons. The French government, under increasing domestic criticism for "appeasing" Iraq, has also taken the psychologically important decision to commit ground forces to the United Arab Emirates and military instructors to Saudi Arabia. On the political front, European Community foreign ministers have refused to close their embassies in Kuwait.

The coalition has been assembled in time, but only just. Yesterday an Iraqi tanker unloaded its cargo in Aden, exposing as a lie Yemen's promise to comply with UN sanc-

tions. The UN Security Council adjourned yesterday morning without authorising military action. The resolution under consideration goes further than inviting governments to use naval forces in the area to enforce the trade embargo against Iraq, asking them in addition to cooperate with Kuwait's legal government to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Such cooperation could, by implication, include the use of ground forces.

Yesterday, in her first public statement for a fortnight, Mrs Thatcher was at her robust best. She insisted that she would never allow Iraq to use western hostages as a bargaining counter. She firmly rejected the notion that their detention would inhibit British naval action, and stressed that neither Britain nor America had ever ruled out the use of force.

The foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, however, struck a slightly different note. He implied in Paris that the hostages would count heavily in a British military decision, saying that "it is not in our interests to put our nationals in greater danger".

Mr Hurd may have meant no more than a proper concern that military planning must protect, as far as possible, the lives of foreign civilians trapped in Kuwait and Iraq. If, as Kuwait's legal government has reported to the UN, Iraq has mined vital installations in the country including not only power stations, refineries and port facilities but life-preserving water desalination plants, a counter-attack on land will indeed inflict terrible casualties. No unnecessary risks should be taken with any civilian lives.

The odds in favour of effective enforcement of sanctions, the best hope of avoiding military action, have now greatly improved. But naval "teeth" will almost certainly have to be used, and President Saddam Hussein has threatened to treat naval action as an act of aggression. There can be no guarantee that his words are aimed only at diverting attention from Iraq's primary aggression, the invasion of Kuwait, and do not imply armed Iraqi retaliation. The absolute priority, as Mrs Thatcher has repeated, is to force Iraq to withdraw, unconditionally, from Kuwait. Should military action become unavoidable, there must be no trace of ambiguity about Britain's will.

NELSON MANDELA TO MOVE

The world has watched with admiration as President F. W. de Klerk has enlisted the help of Nelson Mandela in the task of offering South Africans an example of how to overcome their visceral antipathies. But now the dire prophecies of the Afrikaner reactionaries appear to be fulfilled. Supine black leaders have allowed a gory tribal vendetta to spread inexorably across the country, evoking visions of a calamitous future under majority rule.

It is easy for the African National Congress and its friends to assign blame for the carnage in South Africa's black townships to their conventional villains: the Zulu leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the South African police. Certainly Mr Buthelezi's Inkatha impis must bear their share of the blame for nearly 4,000 deaths, as he has struggled to retain his power base against the predominantly Xhosa ANC. When the struggle was confined to the hills of Natal, some black members of the South African police, with their own tribal loyalties, were biased against the ANC. Until Mr de Klerk came to power, the South African government was not displeased by evidence of black disunity, the more brutal the better.

That pleasure today, however, is confined to President de Klerk's enemies on the far right, who know that every spasm of black violence swells their ranks with frightened whites and erodes Mr de Klerk's fragile constituency. Inkatha warriors and the ANC "comrades" — who believe that the spear, the axe and the "necklace" are justifiable political tools — have become Dr Andries Treurnicht's best recruiting agents for his white extremist laager. Mr Mandela's future is now inextricably yoked to Mr de Klerk's fate. Self-interest at the very least requires him to ignore the lago whispers from his ANC colleagues and to deal directly with Mr Buthelezi, the only gesture that has any hope of bringing the killing to an end.

There is no doubt that the Chief would welcome peace talks, and little doubt that Mr

Mandela is privately willing to meet him. But he has been persistently overruled by colleagues who would rather South Africa became the world's next Lebanon than confer on the Zulu leader the recognition he demands. Yet as leader of a large political movement and South Africa's largest tribe, Mr Buthelezi is entitled to help shape the post-apartheid constitution.

The ANC, which has been involved in murderous struggles with other black liberation organisations such as Azapo and the Pan Africanist Congress, is hardly an exemplar of tolerance. Mr Mandela's exiled colleagues have so far avoided internal elections, which would enhance his authority and make their uncompromising policy more difficult to maintain. The ANC's political culture, if not its policies, remains totalitarian.

Hopes of ending the present conflict cannot now lie with the ANC's divided collective leadership. President de Klerk has little choice but to send in the troops. Unless the two sides can agree on a truce, a return to the recently lifted state of emergency may soon become unavoidable.

The onus of avoiding this lies above all on Mr Mandela. Alone in South Africa, he enjoys a prestige that extends far beyond his political base. The critical test of his qualities as a leader will come not in the White House or Downing Street, but on the streets of the townships. Those Western leaders on whom Mr Mandela and the ANC are now wholly reliant for support have the financial leverage to help his moderation to prevail. Their duty is to point out that his status implies wider responsibilities than to mere party discipline. The ANC could not afford to drop Mr Mandela if he went ahead and met Chief Buthelezi. Failure to do so could deny him the chance of one day leading a united South Africa. Instead, it may condemn him to preside over the country's disintegration.

OVER-EXPOSURE

The Victorian middle classes bathed in the sea, not in the sun, and did so with discretion and decorum. They slipped into the surf from changing huts, well wrapped against the weather and each other. Their motives for such physical shyness were a mixture of prudery and snobbery — a tan suggested manual outdoor labour. They would be astonished to find how a century later a well-browned skin would be regarded as evidence of health, prosperity and sexual attractiveness.

It is becoming clear that their misgivings about the sun were right after all, if for the wrong reasons. Professor Ron MacKie, professor of dermatology at Glasgow University, told the British Association for the Advancement of Science yesterday that the incidence of skin cancer was increasing alarmingly. The number of cases of malignant melanoma, the most lethal form of the illness, had doubled in Britain in each of the last four decades. With some 800 deaths a year, mortality has risen by 80 per cent in the last ten years. The rate of increase is higher than that of any other form of malignancy except lung cancer. It is affecting more young people than ever before. Sunlight is the principal suspect.

The association between skin cancer and the sun is reflected by its prevalence in hot sun, reflected by its prevalence in Australia. Half the population of Australia suffers from it, if only in mild form, by the age of 40. In the United States, especially California, it accounts for nearly one in three of all the malignancies recorded. Its steady rise in this country has coincided with the postwar pursuit of a hotter sun than Britons usually enjoy. Chilled by the long damp winters of these latitudes, they seek the change of climate

they can now afford, with seasonal migrations south to the Mediterranean or north Africa. At home they react to a record-breaking summer by exposing as much skin as decency allows.

To ignore the risk of skin cancer from sunlight would be as foolish as to ignore the link between lung cancer and smoking. Professor Mackie was particularly concerned with the depletion of the earth's protective ozone layer, which will gradually increase the intensity of sunlight even in northern latitudes. It has been estimated that the increase in ultraviolet radiation resulting from a 10 per cent depletion could lead to a rise in the incidence of melanoma by one fifth. But the depletion could be even greater than that. Professor MacKie is urging close monitoring of the ozone layer and of ultraviolet radiation.

Most danger arises from sudden and unaccustomed exposure, just the sort experienced on short southern holidays. Women seem more at risk than men; certain kinds of skin are more vulnerable than others. While precautions against sunburn and sunstroke are well known, and the consequences of ignoring them come quickly, there is insufficient public awareness of skin cancer, a disease which creeps up on its victim only slowly.

Deliberate risks are different from those run through ignorance. The message relayed by travel firms and reinforced by fashion magazines, the cosmetics industry and television sustains the fashionable view that a sepiatian is a symbol of beauty and health. It can remain so no longer. Even now, before serious ozone depletion starts to raise the ultraviolet level, a change of fashion would be timely. The Victorians were right.

Gulf action under official cloak

From the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, The United Nations Association welcomes the four resolutions of the Security Council condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; calling for mandatory sanctions, declaring the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq illegal; and demanding the immediate release of foreign nationals in Kuwait and Iraq. We regard it as imperative that all further action to resolve the crisis is taken through the UN.

We are most deeply concerned by the escalation of tension and the apparent build-up to actual war of the last few days. So far all reports indicate that the sanctions imposed under Article 41 of the UN Charter are becoming effective.

We believe that any military action to enforce sanctions, if indeed this should prove necessary, must only be taken under the auspices of the United Nations. Any unilateral or multilateral use of force in support of the Security Council mandatory sanctions cannot be justified under Article 51. This should not be confused in terms of international legality with responses to the request from Saudi Arabia for defensive assistance.

Accordingly, we ask that our Government continues to pursue through the Security Council the question of measures needed under Article 42 to enforce sanctions, with suitable and reasonable arrangements for their effective management under Article 47.

Without such endorsement we condemn any use of force and are appalled by any suggestions that a preemptive strike can get us out of this dilemma.

We urge that all countries involved should totally renounce the possible use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, even in retaliation, if armed conflict should occur.

Parking for disabled

From the Director of Age Concern England

Sir, Age Concern England wholeheartedly supports Mr Crewe's view (August 15) that the orange badge parking scheme for the disabled should be extended to the London boroughs in which it currently does not apply.

However, we are concerned about his passing comment regarding "abuse" of the scheme. The claimed existence of such abuse is central to the Department of Transport's current proposals for tightening the scheme's eligibility criteria. Significantly, at no point have they provided anything other than anecdotal evidence of this abuse.

The department's main proposal could severely limit eligibility to the scheme, but it would only reduce abuse in the crudest arithmetical sense of reducing the number of badge holders. Many older people with mobility handicaps could lose their eligibility for badges under these changes.

In-flight illness

From Dr Peter J. C. Chapman

Sir, As one of the authors of the report quoted by your correspondent concerning passenger deaths in flight ("Sickness in the skies", August 9) may I be allowed a comment?

By far the commonest cause of sudden unheralded passenger death is cardiac arrest. The numbers are not large, probably in the region of 0.5 per million travellers. They are almost certainly under-reported and cannot be ignored. Either such a rate of attrition has to be accepted with a shrug of resignation, or something has to be done to prevent it.

The facts are that only one procedure, that of defibrillation by DC shock, carries any hope of success and this, contrary to your report, is not available to British Airways passengers.

The airline that pioneered such facilities, the first in the world to carry defibrillators and to train their cabin staff in their use, was British Caledonian. Regrettably British Airways

decided not to continue this when they acquired that airline.

The good news, however, is that another British carrier has taken over the mantle and now carries sophisticated, automatic defibrillators on all their aircraft. Virgin Atlantic is, I believe, the only airline in the world to carry such equipment, with flight attendants trained in their use, and to give their passengers the chance of survival if they are unfortunate as to suffer cardiac arrest in flight.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. C. CHAPMAN,
The Medical Suite,
Gawick Penta Hotel,
Gawick Airport (London),
Horley, Surrey.

August 15.

From Mr J. H. Scarr and
Mr P. D. Coleridge Smith

Sir, Thomson Prentice, in his article on travel maladies, refers to passengers on long-haul flights as being at risk of venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. Our attention was drawn to this problem recently when, in the space of

one week, three passengers who had travelled on transatlantic flights were referred with swollen painful legs.

Investigations in our vascular laboratory have demonstrated thrombosis of the leg veins. The problem of swelling of ankles on long-distance flights have also been investigated and reported on by a group of 19 doctors on a 15-hour flight to Japan.

We have found that the practice of wearing below-knee graduated compression stockings is effective in preventing the worst effects of long-distance air travel on the legs. Our studies on the prevention of venous thrombosis in hospital patients lead us to believe that these measures will also reduce the risk of clotting in the legs' veins.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. SCARR,

P. D. COLERIDGE SMITH,

University College and Middlesex

School of Medicine,

Department of Surgery,

The Middlesex Hospital,

Mortimer Street, W1.

August 15.

Advice on health

From Mr Ralph Irwin-Brown

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury's appeal (report, August 7) for Government aid for cathedrals is surely ill-founded. The Government currently adds to direct giving to the Church of England some 18.6 per cent by way of income tax refunds.

Thus, of the £70 million needed, the Church would have to raise only £59 million over the next decade. This could be met by each attendant at ordinary Sunday services giving on average £4 a week, instead of £2.60 as now.

Taking into account the probable increase in church membership in the decade of Evangelism and the present grants to the Church from the EC and local authorities, no extra public funding is justified but, of course, money would have to be sent where.

Wealthy and successful dioceses should help their poorer neighbours and that is the key to the problem.

Yours faithfully,

OLIVER LEVER,

Blackacre, Beck Lane,

Malvern,

Worcestershire.

August 13.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

before they notice that we have stopped moving at an acceptable pace.

Yours faithfully,

KIM LARDGE,

53 Salisbury Road,

Ealing W13.

Walking aid

From Miss K. P. Lardge

Sir, I also write in praise of the walking stick (letters, August 13, 17). Mine, however, is of the waihi-cherry variety, not well fashioned but equally as functional as Sir Francis Avery Jones's chest-high thumb stick.

Since acquiring my stick a few years ago my walks have changed radically.

Unseen steep ground is easy to ascend or descend with its assistance: fast-running streams dryly traversed as it locates unsafe crossing points; thick undergrowth or dense overhanging tree growth is no longer a problem and when I rest in enjoyment of the view the trusty stick entertains the two dogs in a game of "tag-of-war".

2. For higher fences the fork of the

stick is used to raise the wire as far as necessary to allow one to get between the top two shanks.

3. For lower fences the fork is used to depress the top wire for an easy step over.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. SLADE,

13 Church Road,

Maiden Newton, Dorset.

From Mrs Henry Moore

Sir, When walking on Offa's Dyke

I am always reassured if one of the

party carries a thumb stick, so that

any threatening vipers can be

pinned at the neck with a quick

reverse twist of the stick. It might

be even more useful for our

impending holiday in Corfu.

Yours faithfully,

CECILY MOORE,

Shucknall Court, Hereford.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

The farmer says the word, along the path, as the seed is sown. As he goes, Satan comes and takes away the word. St. Mark 4: 14-15 N.L.V.

BIRTHS

BRAKES - On August 16th, in Sydney, Australia, Philipine (née Henion) and David, a son, Lucia and Kate, a sister for William.

BURKE - On August 17th, to David-Rae and Glynne, a daughter, Caron A'Court.

CHRISTIAN ANDERSON - On August 19th, to Joanne and Stephen, a son, Anderson.

CLOWES - On August 19th, to Emma and John, a son, Arthur Henry Bevan.

DAWSON - On August 20th, to Angela (née) and Michael, a son, Alexander.

GREGORY - On August 20th, to Caroline (née Heath) and Charles, a son, Oliver.

HART - On July 23rd, at The Farnborough Hospital, to Linda, wife of Eric Hart, a daughter, a daughter, Fay Jean Ann, 1 year for Guy.

HAVELLANCE - On August 12th, at Bromley, to Joanne (née Green) and Guy, a son, William, and Simon.

HOBBS - On August 21st, at The Matilda Hospital, Kone, to Caroline (née Hobbs) and a son, Oliver David.

HODGSON - On August 17th, to Maria (née Scott), and Nicholas, a son, Thomas Peter Hodgson.

HODGE - On August 19th, at The Portland Hospital, London, to Katherine (née O'Brien) and James, a son, James Justin, and his brother, Louise.

HOGG - On August 19th, to Judy (née Smith), and a daughter, a daughter, Molly Alice.

HOBBS - On August 19th, to David, a daughter, Clare, granddaughter, for and Kenneth Elspeth.

JORDAN - On August 18th, to Maria (née Scott), and Nicholas, a son, Thomas Peter Hodgson.

KELLY - On August 19th, to Richard and Linda, a son, Michael, and a daughter, Sarah.

LAWRENCE - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

MARSH - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

MATTHEWS - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

MORRISON - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

PEPPER - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

ROBERTS - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

SCOTT - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

SMITH - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

THOMAS - On August 19th, to John and Linda, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Karen.

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MEDIA

Brave pilot boards a leaky vessel

With heartfelt relief Nick Shot, the chief executive of the soon to be tabloid *Sunday Correspondent*, was finally able to announce last week that he had a new editor with impeccable credentials in both the quality and tabloid fields — John Bryant, deputy editor of *The Times* and a former executive editor in charge of features at the *Daily Mail*. Clearly Mr Bryant had hesitated for a few days, for at least three other names were being canvassed during that period. In the end the challenge to save a newspaper which most observers had given up for dead proved irresistible.

The odds are heavily against him. He lacks both time and money. Details of the refinancing package have been scanty, but it is known that Robert Maxwell has now joined the principal backer and has become the fourth-largest shareholder. Following the breakdown of its negotiations to take a stake in *The Independent*, the Tribune company of Chicago made a further contribution and so, despite an earlier board decision to commit no more

money, did the *Guardian* company, if only on a limited scale. But raising the cash proved hard going. Contrary to earlier speculation that the *Correspondent* obtained a further £10 million, I believe that the total was not much more than £7 million.

If £1.5 million of that sum is spent on the relaunch in a tabloid format, and some part of it, say £500,000, has already been spent just keeping the paper alive prior to the relaunch, then Mr Bryant has to work the miracle before Christmas, say in the 16 weeks after the first Sunday in September. (The period immediately after Christmas is never too buoyant and after that money could be running out fast.) For a Sunday newspaper that means just 16 issues.

An additional problem is the advertising recession, which is affecting all quality newspapers. A newspaper like the *Correspondent*, with a current sale of only 155,000, is in a weak position to pitch for a bigger share of the advertising spend, and lack of advertising affects space. In broadsheet pages last Sunday the *Sunday Telegraph* carried 60 pages (including the Appointments section); the *Observer* mustered 72 (including eight in its "Schools Out" section); the *Independent* on Sunday had 74 (including 18 in its Business section and 18 in its Review) and *The Sunday Times* scored 92 in six sections, excluding the *Funday Times* cartoons. But the *Correspondent* could boast only 48 pages — a crippling

handicap on a day so pregnant with news.

Mr Bryant will also have to face the high cost of editorial coverage of the Gulf. At present his paper appears to have just one man in the Middle East. That will not be enough if a shooting war breaks out. And, as editor of a stand-alone newspaper, he cannot share the expertise with a daily brother. Perhaps *The Guardian* could help out.

Of course a shooting war, as opposed to the present period of rising tension, might help circulation. The quality market is suffering the usual seasonal decline as people go on holiday and students return home and read the family paper instead of buying one for themselves. But rising tension in the Gulf seems to have caused some reversal of the usual trend. At least some of the broadsheets seem to be benefiting from the pages of description and analysis, much of it of the highest quality, which they are offering their readers.

So what can be said on the positive side? First, there will be a big curiosity sale when the paper goes tabloid. After so

much publicity about the *Correspondent's* difficulties many disenchanted former readers may be tempted to give it another try. And some of those people who complain that there's "too much to read" on Sundays might just conceivably be persuaded to see if the new formula works for them.

Then Mr Bryant must believe that he can transform the features side of the paper, which has so far proved a horrible disappointment. The "Section Two" front, which should be one of the main selling points of the paper, has been appallingly weak.

The decision not to "buy in" material was mistaken. While the established Sundays get the pick of the best sellers, there are plenty of books from which one extract is well worth buying, and the cost need not be high. And if Mr Bryant can find just one outstanding columnist he can dispense with most of the rest.

Above all, the look of the new tabloid is crucial. The present broadsheet seems cold and uninviting. The *Correspondent* provides an excellent news service; it just needs better projection. Mr Bryant might find it worthwhile to glance at the *London Daily News*, whose typography combined quality and verve. But that might be tempting fate too far. Anyway, he deserves the best of luck for his courage. All will be clear by Christmas, if not before.

THE PRESS

Charles Wintour

From dole queue to press gang

CLAY PHOTOGRAPHIC



Area composition: Sharon Merchant and Peter Hamilton make up pages that will go into 35,000 homes

The Manchester Area News is both a thriving publication and a rare training ground.

Bernard Silk reports

There is no doubt that *Area News* is a success: only six months old, it began as a monthly, is now published fortnightly, and may soon go weekly. But it is also the first local newspaper of its type in the country, having taken 23 young men and women off the dole queues of inner Manchester and put them to work as reporters.

Set up with aid of a government grant and private funding, *Area News* is attracting advertising from local businesses and should eventually become self-supporting: quite a feat considering no conventional local papers have been published on its patch — some of the city's poorest and worst-regarded areas — for years.

The man behind the venture is John Elliott, aged 30, a journalist who has freelanced for BBC radio and television, and lives in Moss Side, where *Area News* has its headquarters.

"Living here, I saw the need for a local paper and also the number of bright youngsters, black and white, who were out of work," he says. "I thought if we could set up a paper using some sort of elementary training scheme, then youngsters who might not otherwise have a chance to get into journalism could sample it and perhaps go further."

Eventually, after four years, Mr Elliott persuaded the trade and industry department to back his vision with cash under its Inner City Task Force scheme. Any eventual profit — and Mr Elliott predicts the paper should be in profit by next year — will be ploughed back into community schemes.

The stake has gone towards renting an office, leasing equipment, paying the (small) staff and giving grants to trainees, all of whom must have at

least five O-levels. They undergo a year's training at a city college for at least 2½ days a week, learning shorthand, news writing, journalists' law and how to operate a desktop publishing system.

Mr Elliott says some of the staff have already received job offers from local media. An advertising representative has gone to work at Piccadilly Radio, the city's local commercial station, and editorial offers have been made by Sunset Radio, one of the new independent local radio franchisees. So far, all the trainees — a third are black — have elected to complete training at *Area News*. "This is on the job training," Mr Elliott says. "It is a real paper. They know they cannot make a cock-up. Local people are absolutely chuffed. They have a paper which reflects their doings with hard news and human interest stories, while small businesses have somewhere to advertise at reasonable cost. We get

people popping in with stones or

writing to us. Most local organisations are aware of us and we were recently asked to set up a school newspaper."

The youthful reporters are supervised by experienced journalists such as David Taylor, the chief reporter, and Shaun Lambert, the managing editor. Mr Lambert says: "To throw people into the deep end like this is taking a chance, and obviously some pick things up easier than others. But the high standard has surprised me. We have had some good papers, the equal of anything produced by professionals. We are encouraging them to find places with more mainstream papers and I think a number of them will become successful in other parts of the media."

Edward Kochier, aged 20, hopes to work in television one day. "I have spoken to people who have been on other employment training schemes and they can be pretty useless. But this is great: You train as you work, which I imagine is the best way to learn journalism. I got the front page lead in

the paper's second issue, and I am proud of that."

Area News is distributed, free, to 35,000 homes throughout Moss Side, Levenshulme, Rusholme, Whalley Range, Old Trafford, and Longsight. All the trainees live within the circulation area, where unemployment is a problem — about 15 per cent of the people are out of work.

"Conventional newspapers must have felt it was not commercially viable to set up in this part of town," says Mr Elliott, who also has apprentice advertising staff on his team. "Obviously they were wrong. We are getting advertisements from local shops and national superstores — just the sort of mix you would get in a normal weekly."

Simon Fabe, who runs a furniture store in Whalley Range and has taken a half-page advertisement in every edition of the newspaper, says: "The paper seems to be pulling people into our shop and the advertising rate compares well with other media."

The younger members of Britain's Jewish community will soon have their own alternative *Time Out*

A NEW moon is about to rise over Britain's 350,000-strong Jewish community, with the publication of the preview edition of a monthly arts and current affairs magazine on September 13.

New Moon has been set up by a group of young Jewish journalists and business people, who claim that their generation is poorly served by existing publications such as the weekly *Jewish Chronicle*. *New Moon*'s founders have worked or work for *Spitfire*

Image, the television programme, a range of publications including *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *Time Out* and *The Independent*, as well as Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising agency.

The magazine is targeted at

the 18 to 40 age group and aims to be a national Jewish

version of *Time Out*. At its

core will be comprehensive

free listings of Jewish interest activities across Britain. "We felt it was time we had a publication to address our concerns and interests rather than those of our parents," said Matthew Calman, aged 29, the editor. "Our market research showed that most young Jews do not read *The Jewish Chronicle* and see it as being out of touch."

"The *Chronicle* is an important Anglo-Jewish institution and we are not in competition with it — but there is no reason why one newspaper should satisfy all the needs of the community."

New Moon's first preview edition, with a print run of 20,000, includes an interview with Woody Allen and features on Jewish prostitution

and the Jewish Film Festival. More than 500 subscribers have paid between £15 and £100 to raise £20,000 so far. Full monthly publication starts next February.

The launch of *New Moon* coincides with an editorial shake-up at *The Jewish Chronicle*. Ned Temko, aged 37, takes the editor's chair on September 3.

"I don't see *New Moon* as competition," Mr Temko said. "The more the merrier."

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A New Moon waxes

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Waging the war of words

From Henry V's speech before Harfleur to the sneers of Lord Haw-Haw and the bloodcurdling threats of Saddam Hussein, military propaganda has always been with us, George Hill reports

Alcohol is banned in Saudi Arabia, and opportunities to fraternise with the locals are limited. American servicemen thrown into the armed waiting game on the borders of Kuwait may find plenty of time on their hands to tune to Baghdad radio, where Saddam Hussein's "Lord Haw-Haw" has begun trying to woe them into despondency, with a honeyed and insinuating commentary reminiscent of the broadcasts beamed into Britain from Germany during the second world war.

This is a familiar strategem of psychological warfare, using the soft and the hard approaches hand in hand to influence enemy forces. The broadcasts of William Joyce, "Lord Haw-Haw", were part of a campaign by Dr Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, to undermine Britain's will to fight with a mixture of threats and blandishments. The campaign included a jazz band and a bogus "Christian pacifist" channel, in addition to Joyce's stream of mocking mockery.

In the Pacific war the Japanese tried similar methods against the Americans. "Tokyo Rose" broadcast sweet music and asked GIs: "Why are you fighting a useless war here, when civilians are seducing your girlfriends back at home?"

The British, too, used "soft" tactics in the Falklands war. "The Ministry of Defence requisitioned BBC transmitters, and started a radio station called Radio Atlantico del Sur, aimed at the forces occupying the islands," says Robert Harris, author of *Gotha*, a book about the conflict. "They transmitted news favourable

to the British, and showed off how much they knew about dispositions in the islands by presenting sentimental music as record requests by particular units."

For connoisseurs of the art of military propaganda, the events in the Gulf are already shaping up as an intriguing contest. "Both sides have been brilliantly skilful in their different ways," says Phillip Knightley, the author of *The First Casualty*, a study of how truths, half-truths and lies have been deployed in war from the Crimea to Vietnam. "Western governments and media have linked Saddam's name with Hitler's and coined epithets like 'madman' or 'bonkers'. Iraq has been quick to catch up by calling George Bush a liar who is cheating his own people, and by using western hostages as a threat."

To non-Arab ears, the highly coloured rhetoric pouring from Baghdad sounds as bizarre as it is horrific, while much of the western response has been studiedly laconic.

But an intense calculation of audiences and effects lies behind Iraq's gleeful assertions that captured enemy pilots will be "immediately devoured", as it does behind President Bush's decision to conduct operations from the golf-course at Kennebunkport, and Mrs Thatcher's reluctance to recall parliament.

Baghdad's historians invoke an idiom that is likely to arouse as much contempt as fear in the West today. But they come from a time-honoured tradition. Saddam's worst menaces sound mild compared with the catalogue of threatened butchery and rape that Shakespeare's Henry

V uses to force the capitulation of the city of Harfleur. In neighbouring countries to Iraq, its claim to be fighting on behalf of the whole Arab world against the western oppressor is likely to find many sympathetic hearers.

A new dimension has been given to the art of propaganda in this century with the advent of broadcasting. "It is probably true that the Iraqi people today are less isolated from outside opinion than the German people were in Hitler's day, because of the invention of the transistor radio," Knightley says. "Leaders can no longer go to war on the assumption that their people will only be able to hear their own side of the story."

Outsiders find it hard to calculate what impact the spectacle of the United Nations's swift and relatively concerted response to Saddam's aggression in Kuwait may be having on the Iraqi population, or in its ruling circles.

By contrast, the reactions of western nations to Saddam's exploitation of westerners stranded in Iraq and Kuwait have been strong and fully visible. But it is yet to be seen whether the effect will work in Saddam's favour, as he must calculate, or against him.

While Saddam's spokesmen uninhibitedly evoke images of corpses in shrouds, and child hostages going hungry, the White House has obstinately sought out words that do not inflame and are legally neutral — "interdiction" instead of "blockade".

In recent days, there has been measured escalation, but in gravity, with Mr Bush reminding Americans that "personal sacrifices" may be needed.

Ever since Vietnam, American administrations have been keenly aware of the danger that a conflict can be lost because public support at home melts away, once the price to be paid becomes clear on the nation's television screens. Vietnam left many military planners and workers in the western media doubting (in the words of Robin Day at a Royal United Services Institute seminar on the subject in 1970) whether "a

democracy which has uninhibited television coverage in every home will ever be able to fight a war, however just... Blood looks very red on the colour television screen."

The techniques of rhetoric and psychological warfare can be used to bully, to deceive and to undermine. But they can also prepare a country in the face of a challenge that cannot be shirked. Lord Haw-Haw's audience in Britain was at its greatest in the early months of the "phony war" when the whole thing was still a bit of a joke. When the real conflict arrived, his listeners began to desert him, as a stronger and more credible voice began to be heard on the air — that of Churchill.

The problem is not with the state broadcasters, or the new national commercial networks

Mega and Antenna, but with some of the 50 or so small regional companies, according to Justin Hatfield, a director of the distribution company RPTA Prime Time.

"But it is growing generally across the world as a result of deregulation," he says. "Also, the technology is making it easier."

Eight weeks ago the BTDA set up a piracy committee to take control of the initiative, and following the employment of a local legal advisor and media monitor, three cases of alleged theft have been identified.

Survival, a programme owned by Itel, the distribution

AA, assesses losses at millions of dollars and says Greece, Portugal and the Middle East — where the home video market is 100 per cent pirate — are all culprits.

The broadcasters are anxious to make an example of Greece, although it is not a large source of revenue, because stations there want to broadcast to other countries. There is a fear that Eastern Europe, where private television companies are starting up, might try to do the same.

Fred Hasson, the deputy director at IPPA, says: "We think that Eastern Europe opening up will make things worse." He has organised a meeting in Brussels to try to get the law enforced.

EDWARD SHELTON

Saddam has been compared with Hitler; Iraq has said Bush is cheating his own people

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A family united: Tim and Gail Williams with Robert and Imogen — every little infection has been a worry, but "the memory of that cheerless January evening is easing".

Elation, anxiety and analysis

Four years after he wrote of the loss of his daughter, Tim Williams considers theories on cot death, and how they affect parents

In November, Jessica would have been five sticky fingers, piggy-back rides, constant questions, childish laughter on the wind. We have all these, despite her cot death, for Robert is now aged three and both playmate and adversary for seven-year-old Imogen, easing the memory of that fearful, cheerful January evening in 1986.

Since then, we have had contact with more than 100 people touched by the cold hand of cot death and its aftermath of grief, bewilderment, anger and resentment and guilt, guilt that it might have been some lapse of care that opened one's own gates of hell.

Elation at the birth of reassuringly normal Robert in 1987 was followed by anxiety, never wanting him out of our sight, declining baby-sitters for a year. And what about a breathing monitor? In the end we settled for a baby alarm (a mains-linked intercom costing less than £20), with daily weighing to confirm normal weight gain as this often tails off before illness or a cot death; such scales cost about £200, but can be borrowed or hired. At two months, Robert's weight dropped briefly but picked up when the health visitor suggested that breast-feeding may have been subconsciously affected because Jessica had died at this age. Every little infection was a worry, and on one occasion Robert became so feverish and listless, screaming if placed flat, that our fear of meningitis was only assuaged when our doctor arranged overnight hospital admission.

Many parents find the rhythmic

clicking and flashing of a breathing (apnoea) monitor reassuring. No scientific study has confirmed that home monitors prevent cot death, although there are reports of apparently life-threatening events being prevented; whether such episodes would otherwise have progressed to cot death is a moot point, and they are no longer called near-misses.

Advice on the care of the next infant (Coni) after a cot death is now available under the expanding Coni scheme, devised by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths to help local health care professionals and provide monitors and weighing scales.

We each coped with the loss of Jessica according to our own lights, unobtrusively supported by friends. For my wife, there was solace in discussion and shared grief. My way was to grapple with what little is known about cot death and write of the tragedy to show others that they are not alone.

In tribute to Jessica we began a local cot death support group in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, to befriend and inform the bereaved, and raise funds for research. This country has more than 100 such groups, providing an informal forum for parents to discuss their experiences and share anxieties, helping the newly bereaved through the dark days after the

funeral when normality refuses to return, sometimes for months. Doctors can help by seeing the parents at intervals to check that they are coping. Some parents become unduly protective towards all their children. Once the delicate thread of life has been inexplicably broken, the memory of its fragility persists.

Many parents find that grief erupts with every new theory about cot death. Research should be validated scientifically before receiving wide publicity, and not overplayed. The media have a moral responsibility to minimise needless hurt by checking the significance of new findings.

Another contentious area is the presence of the police at the scene of a cot death. Often this is the result of a 999 call, but even if the diagnosis of cot death has been made by a doctor, the police sometimes attend, as happened with us. This appears to be at the discretion of each coroner. Since deaths from child abuse are less than 1 per cent of the figure for cot deaths, it seems inappropriate to involve the police (let alone the CID) when there is no reason to suspect non-accidental injury, which will in any case become evident at a post-mortem. Many forces now train their officers in how to handle cot

deaths, but none the less most coroners could safely restrict police attendance at the scene to those instances where there are grounds for suspicion. Just as cancer and heart disease are starting to yield their lethal secrets, so, too, will cot death. Any credible theory must explain the few known facts: cot death tends to affect children aged two to six months, especially during the winter, and there are differences in incidence between countries, although the tragedy is world-wide.

During the past 20 years, the incidence of true cot deaths (those with a post-mortem indicating sudden infant death syndrome) has remained roughly constant in the United Kingdom at slightly more than two per thousand live births, while other causes of perinatal and infant mortality have dropped dramatically. The rate is similar to that of other industrialised nations — apart from a very low incidence in Sweden (0.6 per thousand live births) and Hong Kong (0.3) — and produces 1,500 or so true cot deaths in this country each year.

As reported in *The Times* last month, there are grounds for thinking that the prone position and over-wrapping may contribute to cot death, despite the conventional wisdom that babies should be nursed on their stomachs to reduce the risk of inhaling

any vomit. The Coni recommendation is that babies should sleep on their sides and that thin blankets should be used in preference to baby nests or duvets. Clothes or wrapping should be reduced if the baby has a temperature. We do not yet know whether two-month-old Jessica died because she was swaddled and face-down in a centrally heated home, but this was the only occasion that any of our children had been placed that way. By standard criteria, she was at low risk of cot-death, though susceptible because of winter time, recent sniffles and her age.

What we do not know is that "Bright Eyes" made Jessica laugh, and the smile brings back many memories. We share them with a fuzzy photograph and a 14th century haifz ode, passed to us by another bereaved mother.

*This house hath been a fairy's dwelling place;
As the immortals pure from head to feet
Was she who stayed with us a little space,
Then as was meet,
On her immortal journey went her way.
So wise was she, yet nothing but a flower,
Only a child — yet all the world
to me;
Against the stars what love hath any power!
Or was it she
Went softly in her own appointed hour?*

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● *Nine Faces of Kenya* will be published by Collins Harvill on September 20 (£16.00)

She is still at the research stage, with the Sir Peter Scott biography and almost always at her desk by 6.30am. Any mention of a prolific, sustained output brings the retort: "I've simply lived a long time."

Mrs Huxley suggests that it is wrong to assume that the image of his explorer father, lost on his way back from the South Pole in 1912, remained the biggest influence on the young Peter Scott. Sir Peter was not born until 1909 and, she says, "the biggest influence was his mother, who had very strong views. There is a sort of legend that, instead of being wrapped up as children were at that time, Peter grew up without any clothes at all. That's not quite true — but he never wore anything more than a little tunic."

SANDY BISP

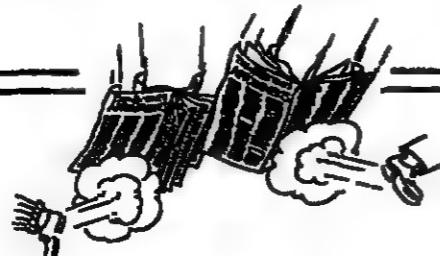
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TED BATH



Working on "We simply lived a long time," Elspeth Huxley says

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THE TIMES

Floored argument & BRIEFLY

DR JAMES Dunlop, the director of public health for Hull, has issued a plea for a return to bare linoleum after too many years of carpet cover-ups. The doctor, from Kirkaldy in Fife — which, he says, "remains the only place in Britain where linoleum is still made" — is understandably proud of it. But he argues scientifically as well as sentimentally, for the return of linoleum to fashionable homes. "As it gets older, lino matures and becomes tougher because the linoed oil it contains carries on oxidising, forming new chemical links with the other constituents," he says. "This oxidation also makes the linoleum slightly bactericidal, making it extremely useful in hospitals. Lino also appears to have an effect on house dust mites, fleas, and so on. This therefore reduces the tendency towards asthma in susceptible people, as does the fact that it does not release fibres into the atmosphere."

Wholly writ

THE Whole Thing catalogue, originally featured on these pages as "not quite the whole thing", because it seemed to be full of gimmicky gadgets for the green-fingered, has discontinued some of its more silly items. The new catalogue focuses on the useful basics such as cleaning materials, energy-saving lightbulbs and fungicide-free wallpaper paste and paints. It has introduced a "green index" after each item, with little symbols indicating "manufacture and packaging", "use", "health", "disposal" and "effort" (indicating the effort to which the manufacturer has gone to become green). Each product is graded. The only problem is

that the grading system is not exactly impartial, as all the products contained in the catalogue are naturally given a high rating by the catalogue itself. One brand of juice, costing nearly £300, receives a low two points out of five in the "use" category — and surely anyone with pretensions of greenness would think twice before using a high-powered electrical machine to squeeze their organic oranges. The Whole Thing catalogue, printed on recycled paper, is available free from The Whole Thing, Millmead Business Centre, Millmead Road, London N17 9QU (081-365 1620).

Wall flowers

NOW

is your chance to pick up a work by an as-yet-recognised genius for a song. From today until August 31 the work of artists from five of London's top art colleges (Goldsmiths, the Royal College of Art, the Royal Academy of Art, the Slade and the Chelsea School of Art) will be displayed at the Mall Galleries, 17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1. "The most difficult time in an artist's career is the transition from art college to making a living," says the Federation of British Artists, which has arranged the exhibition, intended to help with that transition. So this is an excellent opportunity to discover something that might fill that glaring gap on the wall while marking you out as a perceptive patron of the arts. The exhibition, called into the Nineties 2, will be open daily from 10am until 5pm.

Cell walls

DO

children really want a hard sell about how their cells work? Dr Fran Balkwill and

Swan-song of a literary survivor

At the age of 83, Elspeth Huxley is devoting the next two years to a second Scott biography

Elspeth Huxley is embarking at the age of 83, on what she firmly says will be her last book, a biography of the naturalist Sir Peter Scott, who died on August 29 last year.

Her literary swan-song will occupy the next two years. "I must try to stay alive and finish it," says Mrs Huxley, who makes her survival sound purely a matter of obligation to Lady Scott. Sir Peter's widow, who invited her to undertake the work, Mrs Huxley's biography of Sir Peter's father, Scott of the Antarctic, was published in 1977.

She is working on the book at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire, the home of the Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust, which Sir Peter founded. He also established the World Wildlife Fund nearly 30 years ago.

Sir Peter's first wife, Elizabeth Jane Howard, the author, agreed to talk about the man who remained her lifelong friend.

Theirs was simply one of many wartime marriages which didn't work," Mrs Huxley says. Her own marriage, to Gervas Huxley, a first cousin of Aldous and Julian, spanned 40 years until his death in 1971. She has worked steadily from their Wilshire home ever since and *Nine Faces of Kenya*, which by her own definition must be her penultimate book, will be published next month.

This anthology of more than 400 pages encompasses all manner of writings about Kenya, beginning with *Pliny*. Mrs Huxley's own recollections of childhood there, *The Flame Trees of Thika*, became a television series.

She is still at the research stage, with the Sir Peter Scott biography and almost always at her desk by 6.30am. Any mention of a prolific, sustained output brings the retort: "I've simply lived a long time."

Mrs Huxley suggests that it is wrong to assume that the image of his explorer father, lost on his way back from the South Pole in 1912, remained the biggest influence on the young Peter Scott. Sir Peter was not born until 1909 and, she says, "the biggest influence was his mother, who had very strong views. There is a sort of legend that, instead of being wrapped up as children were at that time, Peter grew up without any clothes at all. That's not quite true — but he never wore anything more than a little tunic."

What we do not know is that "Bright Eyes" made Jessica laugh, and the smile brings back many memories. We share them with a fuzzy photograph and a 14th century haifz ode, passed to us by another bereaved mother.

*This house hath been a fairy's dwelling place;
As the immortals pure from head to feet
Was she who stayed with us a little space,
Then as was meet,
On her immortal journey went her way.
So wise was she, yet nothing but a flower,
Only a child — yet all the world
to me;
Against the stars what love hath any power!
Or was it she
Went softly in her own appointed hour?*

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● *Nine Faces of Kenya* will be published by Collins Harvill on September 20 (£16.00)

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TELEVISION

Poison penalty

IN THE dog days of summer, when a documentary is usually all television has to prove that anything is still there outside the newsroom-making programmes, *Venpoint 90* (ITV) came up with a terrifying study of chemical weaponry in "Fog of War". Even if we had not known of Saddam Hussein's gas attacks on Iraq and Kurdistan, this story would have been terrible enough.

Though outlawed by a Geneva Convention of 1925 by which time 100,000 people had already died of mustard gas in the first world war, chemical weapons are now produced by 20 nations, most of which admit that they cannot be accurately targeted, so if you happen to live anywhere downwind of an attack you could be easily destroyed as any intended victim.

Mike Rossiter's film for Central uncovers pre-war Popeye cartoons and sonorous 1930s newscast warnings of the death bombs that were used by Mussolini in Abyssinia, though thereafter very seldom until Vietnam brought nerve gas into fashion after nearly three decades of deterrent-only caution. Two years ago, Saddam bombed 65 Kurdish towns and villages with mustard cyanide, some of it derived from West Germany where the world's largest chemical industry is now under limited and nervous investigation.

A lethal mixture of stupidity, corruption and ruthlessness has allowed a new generation of technology mercenaries to put together chemical deals which allow the weapons still to be manufactured more than half a century after Geneva.

In the United States, politicians admit that the 1984 agreement to outlaw chemical warfare was largely a device to allow senators to vote for the continuation of binary chemical weapons as deterrents while no one has yet found an even halfway effective method of disposing of them. In this country, where we stopped making gas bombs 30 years ago, acres of poisoned earth are still condemned off as unfit for human or animal occupation, and fishermen regularly catch old bombs in their nets, still leaking their poison.

As a result, the chemical warfare apparently outlawed in 1925 will be well with us by 2025, and getting rid of its traces could take another century after that.

OVER on Channel 4, *The Thatcher Audit* is a new series of three documentaries designed as a curtain-raiser to the general election campaign, which will doubtless start with this autumn's party conferences. In the first of these, John Pinder looked back over the last ten years of supply-side reforms, starting with the ritual Thatcher-montage of podium photo-opportunities and soundbites. One day, they will themselves have to be the subject of a special survey, starting with the influence of Christopher Fry and Noel Coward on speech-writing backs responsible for "the lady's not for turning" and "this beloved nation of ours".

Pinder was concerned with three specific areas of recent Tory history: privatisation, the assault on union power, and the credit boom that went bust. On the first, he reckoned that the taxpayer had forked out £4.5 billion to be able to sell off British Steel for £2.5 billion. On the second, he decided that Tebbit had done pretty well versus Scargill, and on the third he was suitably appalled by the fact that Victorian Values would seem not to include that of drift, hence the current debt crisis.

His main thesis was that nothing over the last ten years has been quite what it seemed: privatisation has been not the cause but the consequence of higher productivity and profits in British Steel; the taxpayer has financed improvements in commercial balance sheets; and liberalisation has been the victim rather than the beneficiary of the new accountancy. Moreover, if a privatised company chairman is now accountable to two million shareholders, then he is not really accountable to any one of them. Popular capitalism is thus a contradiction in terms, while home ownership has led to vastly increased home debt.

The first *Thatcher Audit*, therefore, concluded that privatisation has not been of much help to economic efficiency, that union-bashing has not cured inflation, and that the housing and credit fiasco has scuttled a climate of enterprise. The only real change has been that the culture is now that of the casino. This is an Audit unlikely to be read to shareholders at the next Tory party conference: any other business?

SHERIDAN MORLEY

POP MUSIC

Back to the brilliance of Bacharach

Anyone who has a heart, including a new generation of British youngsters, is still falling for the magical Sixties music of Burt Bacharach, Barney Hoskyns says

Sitting in his palatial Bel Air mansion looking over Los Angeles, Burt Bacharach must find British youth's current, slightly bizarre love affair with his music rather amusing. He is, after all, 62 years old and the kind of man more likely to be throwing a party for Elizabeth Taylor than grooving the night away to the latest dance-floor version of one of his classic Sixties version for Dionne Warwick.

Since 1964, when Cilla Black, Dusty Springfield, and Sandie Shaw all hit big with Burt Bacharach/Hal David songs (respectively "Anyone who had a Heart", "I just don't know what to do with myself", and "Always Something There to Remind Me"), the British have had a soft spot for this almost mythical figure.

Along with Phil Spector and Tamla Motown, he helped define the pop sensibility of the Sixties. Everyone from Tom Jones to the Walker Brothers leapt aboard the Bacharach bandwagon. But until recently he hardly registered with young pop punters: if his name evoked any image at all, it was that of a middle-aged, middle-of-the-road bandleader of the Bert Kaempfert variety. Cool it was not.

Now, though, there is fresh evidence that Bacharach is again an influence — from the unlikely direction of the Scottish rock band Deacon Blue. Currently high in the charts with the prosaically-titled EP *Four Bacharach & David Songs*, they are typical of an Eighties generation of hip, historically aware pop stars who see past the easy-listening image to the beauty and sophistication of songs like "Message to Michael" and "Are You There (with another girl)?", both recorded originally by Dionne Warwick.

In the hands of Deacon Blue's frontman, Ricky Ross, "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" proves as adaptable to Nineties radio pop as "My Little Red Book" did to the garage-band psychosis of Love in 1966 or "A House is not a Home" to the bravura vocal improvisations of Luther Vandross in 1982.

"I think the greatest songs are great love songs," Ross says, "and to me the combination of Bacharach and David produced the greatest love songs ever written." Born in Kansas City in 1928, Burt Bacharach grew up in New

York. He studied with serious composers such as Henry Cowell, Darius Milhaud and the Czech Bohuslav Martinu by day, and caught Dizzy and Bird in bebop clubs by night. Playing in a quintet on the "boho-chic" led him to jobs as an arranger-accompanist for Steve Lawrence, Vic Damone and, eventually, Marlene Dietrich, with whom he worked from 1958 to 1963.

It was after meeting the lyricist Hal David in 1957, that Bacharach began writing the series of hits — for Marty Robbins, Perry Como, Gene Pitney, and eventually black artists such as Warwick, Jerry Butler, Chuck Jackson — which would make him one of the most successful writer-producers of the Sixties.

"Don't be afraid of writing something people can remember and whistle," a music tutor is said to have told the young Bacharach. Whether the fledgling genius took the advice to heart is debatable, since many of his greatest songs are far from being the ephemeral, whistle-along pap that passed for pop then and in years to come.

"You've practically got to be a music major to sing Bacharach," Dionne Warwick once remarked.

Logging the time-changes in a song such as "Promises, Promises" — from 3/4 to 4/4, 5/4, 6/4, 3/8, 4/8 and back again — obliged one to agree with her.

The simple fact is that

Bacharach and David were a

generation older than the other.

"Teen Pan Alley" teams who

created the dominant rhythm and blues sound of the late Fifties and early Sixties. Their songs had

more in common with Rodgers and Hart than with the Ronettes.

Bacharach quickly found the Brill Building conveyor-belt sys-

tem stifling. "The company A&R

men used to be really omnipotent," he told *Newsweek* in 1970.

"They'd say 'That's a three-bar

phrase. Make it a four-bar phrase

and I'll get so-and-so to record

your song.' I turned some pretty

good songs that way, because I

believed them."

When he and Hal David heard

Dionne Warwick singing backing

vocals on a Drifters recording

session, they knew she had found

the perfect voice — cool, brittle,

showbizzy rather than gospelly —

for their hybrid pop-soul, con-

positions; songs that did not play

barefacedly to the short attention

spans of American teenagers.

"Don't make me over" (1963)

was the first masterpiece, followed

by "Anyone who had a Heart",

"Walk on By", "I say a Little

Prayer" and more than 20 other

hits in seven years. These were

songs of delicacy and intricacy,

with rhythms dictated by Warwick's phrasing rather than vice

versa, and melodies that under-

were radical shifts and changes.

To the actress Angie Dickinson

would fall apart. By 1980 he

looked washed up. Then he

bounced back. With Carole Bayer

Sager, who became his second wife

in 1982, he co-wrote the Oscar-

winning theme song from *Arthur*,

produced the superb Patti Labelle/Michael McDonald duet "On My Own", and hooked up once more with Dionne Warwick. Songs have

followed for Gladys Knight, Natalie Cole, Neil Diamond and Roberta Flack, while Hal David

has kept up his profile writing with

hit-makers like Albert Hammond.

Earlier this year Bacharach was

at Radio City Music Hall, playing

the piano while a cast including

Warwick, Aretha Franklin and

Whitney Houston gathered to sing

"That's what friends are for".

He remains an active, gracefully

aging presence on the American

music scene, and in Britain his

back catalogue provides a well-

spring of sublime songs for every-

one from Deacon Blue to the

dance-floor guru Tim Simeon.

The Bacharach magic clearly still

moves anyone who has a heart.

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to the actress Angie Dickinson

REVIEWS

A devil of a good cabaret

OPERA
Faust
Playhouse, Edinburgh

THE first impression given by Jozef Bednárik's production of Gounod's *Faust* is that it (mis-quote *Othello*) Pagliacci's occupation's gone. The old clown is weary, his costume torn, and a new macho master of ceremonies, with a particularly devilish grin, is waiting in silver coat tails, whip in hand, to start a whole new show. The Slovak National Opera and Ballet have set up their own decaying auditorium within Edinburgh's Playhouse, and have given the Festival the opera production for which it has been waiting.

In this version, Mephisto is the central figure. It is his name that is in lights above the stage, and he stage-manages every second of every scene. Even the conductor (Oliver Dohnanyi) dare not raise his baton without his permission. It is Mephisto who arranges not only for the white limousine to carry the transformed playboy Faust, but also, in a denouement of high kitsch, to take the newly-winged Marguerite to her assumption. And it is he who ghosts when the shell drops away and the weary clown returns once more to his dressing room.

Peter Mikulas has both the oily physical presence and the inky slyness of voice to carry it off. A sparing curl of the lip and constant eye contact with his audience see him through many a moment of laconic wit. When confronted with the sign of the cross, he nips over to his dressing room, puts his devil cloak on and rolls on the floor in feigned agony. When the soldiers return from war, he amuses himself by strutting along as the Red Army general; there is no heavy point-making here, just a little bit of a tease.

The light-handed approach, the delight in sophisticated understatement, is what sustains this long and devilishly cynical cabaret. Each scene is briskly announced by a card-carrying dancer; a little circus caravan is rolled on as Faust's study. Mar-



Miroslav Dvorsky as the "transformed playboy" Faust in the opera and ballet production

guerite's home, church or prison cage. Even the big set pieces are remarkably restrained, considering that this is a co-production with the Slovak Ballet, and Gounod provides every excuse for a dance *divertissement*.

The dancers are used sparingly as henchmen of Mephisto and as miming and manipulating *alter egos* (Mephisto, Sex, Power, Marguerite). More could have been done with the Kermesse, the marches, much more with the Walpurgis Night. But this is not the way of Bednárik and his

choreographer, Libor Vaculik. The Walpurgis Night is played as a series of four *pas de deux* of successive and witty sexual initiation, ending in a knee-kicking *corps de ballet* to delight the stuffy and omnivorous stage audience.

The main loss is not in spectacle but at the level of the simple, affecting emotional life which Gounod wrote so clearly into his score. It is left to the voices to draw us into that.

This Bratislava house, which has nurtured singers such as Peter Dvorsky, Lucia Popp and

Gabriela Belačková, continues to produce the goods. Miroslav Dvorsky's Faust and Richard Haan's Valentine find French legato style no easier than their English counterparts, but both tenor and baritone are keen and resonant. Marguerite is triple cast, so Eva Jenisová will not be heard again; but her wine-dark, effortless soprano fleshed out both the vulnerability and the true sensuousness of the character, and will not easily be forgotten.

HILARY FINCH

again — "click...click" — their sound now seems to be the ticking of an eternal clock that will forever be sundering their love, yet will mysteriously renew it further on it time.

The play was written by Yukio Mishima in the 1950s, one of several modern versions of old Noh legends, and draws powerfully on the human urge for a love that crosses the generations. In the different realms of children's fiction it is the longing satisfied in the magical last chapter of *Tom's Midsummer Garden*.

When the years roll back the public park becomes again the grounds of a princely mansion. The smooching couples on the benches re-appear as ladies in European bustles and gentlemen in frogged uniforms, and the old crane, bent double like a bundle of

raggs on a set-square, asks the young poet to dance.

In his hands, her body straightens, an astonishing change of expression transforming Haruhiko Job's blotted, creased face. It is still a ruined beauty but in his weird smile (Job is a man) it is the beauty that is apparent. The fine-boned gracious features of Norihiro Inoue's Poet could hardly look more different but suddenly they become a perfect match.

The play is preceded by a traditional dance based on the same legend and performed by a princely mansion. The smooching couples on the benches re-appear as ladies in European bustles and gentlemen in frogged uniforms, and the old crane, bent double like a bundle of

hybrid". He justifies his decision to cobble extremely impious chunks of Mussorgsky onto the Latin mass by claiming that the pieces would otherwise hardly be performed. That argument would be more credible if the pieces fitted their new context more comfortably; as it is, this forced mismatch of music redolent of gloom with a text redolent of hope smacks of dubious opportunism. Christian thinking had no place in Mussorgsky's philosophy — he had enough problems believing in life before death — so to conscript him posthumously to God's cause seems unethical.

Lane's score works best in the Kyrie and Agnus Dei, both fitted to music from the incomplete opera *Salammbô*. The former has long, Slavic-modulated melodies for female chorus, lusciously scored by Rimsky-Korsakov. Lane calls it an "unashamed

punctilio in rhythm and in a less boomy acoustic, would have emphasised more of the music's detail and vivacity. The conductor, Donald Hunt, did well to keep the Worcester Festival Chorus and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic more or less together; nevertheless, the chorus did perform for the most part like an old car on a cold morning.

In the same programme the young Russian, Boris Berezovsky, was the soloist in Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto. Since he has just won the 1990 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, the audience might have expected something more fiery than this fluent but undemonstrative run-through, hampered by the dour speeds selected by the conductor, Roy Massey.

A more spirited performance,

RICHARD MORRISON

THEATRE

Sotoba Komachi
Lyceum, Edinburgh

THE annual visits now made by the Ningawa Company to this country have become vivid highlights in the theatrical year. The cherry blossom in *Macbeth*, Medea's air-borne chariot and the tute-storm in *The Tempest* are imperishable memories for those who saw them. Equally, one recalls the vast red moon glowering in *Sacrifice for Love* (last autumn at the National) and the abrupt cut that followed, as sudden as in a film, to the bustling street-life of the city.

The scenic image presiding over *Sotoba Komachi* is as striking as

CONCERT

St Nicholas Mass
Worcester Cathedral

THAT useful phrase "economical with the truth" best describes the Three Choirs Festival's announcement that it was giving the "world première" of a hitherto unknown *St Nicholas Mass* by Mussorgsky. What emerged in Worcester Cathedral on Monday was no long-lost masterpiece from the hand that wrote *Boris Godunov*. Rather, this was a scissors-and-paste job by the present-day English composer Philip Lane on some fairly familiar bits of Mussorgsky, most of them already in orchestrations by Rimsky-Korsakov.

Lane calls it an "unashamed

attempt by me to appropriate for my own purposes some of Mussorgsky's music". The result is a hybrid. He justifies his decision to cobble extremely impious chunks of Mussorgsky onto the Latin mass by claiming that the pieces would otherwise hardly be performed. That argument would be more credible if the pieces fitted their new context more comfortably; as it is, this forced mismatch of music redolent of gloom with a text redolent of hope smacks of dubious opportunism. Christian thinking had no place in Mussorgsky's philosophy — he had enough problems believing in life before death — so to conscript him posthumously to God's cause seems unethical.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

PONAK

(c) A Muslim Bulgarian, from the Balkans. "Those Bulgarians who have embraced Islam are called Ponaks — a word of which no satisfactory derivation has been given."

WABI

(a) A flawed detail that creates an elegant whole, an imperfection that gives an object its *Oni* Master uniqueness, from the Japanese. *Wabi* is also a quality of taste that distinguishes the spirit of the moment in which this object was created from all other moments in eternity enables one to say: "This pot has wabi".

ECAD

(a) An organism modified by its environment rather than by other effects, from the Greek *ekos* house + *ad*: "The new form which results from variation is a *variant*; the production of a mutation is a *mutant*, and that of an adaption, an *ecad*".

SEI

(c) A kind of dragon, *Balaenoptera borealis*, also called the sei whale, from the Norwegian name for it, the *sejvirk*.

This position is from the game Cooper (White) — Mur (Black), Harry Barnes Memorial British Chess Championships 1990. Black to play and win. Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1... d5! threatening the bishop and 2... Bg4 winning the queen.

WINNING MOVE
By Raymond Keene,
Chess Correspondent

LES LIAISONS
DANGEREUSES

ONE WILL STAY? The *Times* of course, but the *Express* says that the *Telegraph* will stay. Check out for resources. A few hours ago, the *Telegraph* was the only newspaper to have a full interview with the *Express*'s managing editor, John Hume. The *Express* accepted until 1989. The *Telegraph* is to continue to publish the *Express* news stories. *Express* readers have been told to buy the *Express* instead.

JAMES BOLAM
IS UNWELL

FORBIDDEN PLANET
TO OPEN IN OCTOBER

SHIRLEY VALENTINE
EYES 5 MAY

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

INTO THE WOODS

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

ROYAL DRAMAHOUSE

ROYAL LYRIC

ROYAL COURT

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

ROYAL LYRIC

ROYAL COURT

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

ROYAL LYRIC

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

</div

TELEVISION & RADIO

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- 6.00 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Fiona Foster 8.55 Regional News and Weather
9.00 News and weather
But First This . . . Children's entertainment beginning with *Belle and Breakers*. Motorcycle pyramids, the fastest yo-yo in the world and a world record attempt on a trampoline (r)
10.00 News and weather followed by *Doubtful Dare*, Peter Simon presents another edition of television's messiest game show (r) 10.30 Playdays (r)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Poetry from the pupils of Moor Park High School in Preston (r)
11.00 News and weather followed by *Eats for Treats*. Jane Asher and her young cooks conjure up dishes for a silver wedding party 11.35 *The O Zone*, Music magazine including Britain's charts and the new number one
12.00 News and weather followed by *The Gardener Party*. Denis Touny presents the magazine show from Glasgow's Botanic Gardens. The subjects under the microscope are potpourri, disability, lifestyle trends and new videos 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax)
1.50 *The Train Now Departing*: Lines of Industry. Many private industrial

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: Energy Resources: Uranium 7.10 Culture and Belief in Europe 14.00-16.00: *Toulouse*. Ends 7.35
9.00 Mastermind 1980 (r)
9.30 Film: *A Farewell to Arms* (1957). Ernest Hemingway's romantic tragedy, set against the background of the first world war, is given the full Hollywood treatment by David Seznick in an overlong and inflated version of a story first filmed in 1932. Rock Hudson plays the wounded American ambulance driver taken under the wing of Jennifer Jones's volunteer nurse with the British Red Cross. Directed by Charles Vidor
11.55 Brief Glory. The people of Clevedon celebrate rescuing their pier from the scrap yard
12.25 England: *The Election* 1929. Baldwin's Conservatives, MacDonald's Labour or Lloyd George's Liberals? The nation went to the polls to decide
12.30 Widewaters: Into Africa. Anthony Hopkins narrates a film about the aeronautical exploits of pilots who fly to Africa to seed thunderclouds, spray locusts and fly emergency missions (r)
1.20 Fingerdance dances to music from Spain and the Soviet Union (r)
1.35 Country File. John Craven introduces the son of *Jamie* from Puy du Fou in France
2.00 News and weather followed by Great Britons. John Pudney looks at Thomas Cook and his son, the Victorian founders of modern tourism (r)
5.00 News and weather followed by Wild World: Rabbits - Wanted Dead or Alive? Rabbits know all about chemical warfare. They were subjected to it in the form of myxomatosis. Julian Pettifer explains why
3.50 News and Weather. Regional news and weather

RADIO 1

- FM Stereo
5.00am *John and Mary* 5.30 *Silence*
Mayo 8.00 *Simon Ballantyne* 11.00 *The Radio 1 Bookshop* 12.30 *John Peel* 1.00 *Music*
Allocco 5.30 *News* 6.00 *Matt's Good Morning* 7.30 *The Gap with Annie Nightingale* 8.30 *John Peel* 10.00 *Nicky Campbell* 12.00-2.00 *Bob Harris*

RADIO 2

- FM Stereo
4.00am *Alastair 5.30 David Attenborough* 6.30 *Ken Bruce* 7.15 *Steve Dahl* 7.30 *Des Lascără* 7.30 *Jimmy Young* 8.05 *David Jacobs* 2.05 *Gloria Hunniford* 4.00 *Pauline Coker* 5.00 *John Hodge* 5.30 *Steve Dahl* 7.00 *Bob Harris* 7.30 *Steve Dahl* 7.30 *Ken Bruce* 8.00 *Jim Leyland* with *Folk on 2* 8.00 *Nigel Green* with *The Organ* 10.00 *Mark E. Smith* 10.30 *Cat the Fridge* 10.00 *Marion Keene* 10.30 *Samuel Jackson* 10.30 *John Peel*

WORLD SERVICE

- All times in BST
8.00 World News 6.00 24 Hours followed by News Summary 6.30 London Metre 6.55 Weather 7.00 *Newswise* 7.30 *London Metre* 8.00 World News 8.30 *World Summary* 9.00 *Financial News* 9.30 *Development 9.30 My Music* 10.00 *World News* 10.30 *Review of the British Press* 10.15 *The World Today* 10.30 *Financial News* 11.00 *Sport* - Roundup 10.45 *Endangered People* 11.30 *Mid-Magazine* 11.55 *Travel News* 12.00 *World News* 12.30 *Business News* 12.45 *London Metre* 1.00 *Newswise* 1.15 *James Five* 1.30 *The 2nd Faming Festival* 1.45 *Sports Roundup* 2.00 *World News* 2.15 *News from the Americas* 2.30 *World News* 3.00 *Outlook*, featuring *On the Eve* 3.45 *Business Matters* 4.00 *Newswise* 4.15 *BBC English* 4.30 *Headlines* 4.45 *World News* 5.00 *World News* 5.15 *Weather* 5.30 *London Metre* 6.14 *News* 6.30 *World News* 6.55 *Mid-Magazine* 7.00 *Travel News* 7.30 *Business News* 7.45 *London Metre* 8.00 *World News* 8.30 *World Summary* 9.00 *Financial News* 9.30 *Development 9.30 My Music* 10.00 *World News* 10.30 *Review of the British Press* 10.15 *The World Today* 10.30 *Financial News* 11.00 *Sport* - 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Buthelezi plea for talks in new attack on Mandela

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SAVAGE fighting in South Africa's black townships subsided yesterday, but harsh words at peace talks in Pretoria underlined the intensity of the political rivalry that caused the strife and the difficulty of resolving it.

The discovery of more mutilated bodies raised the death toll to 400 in eight days of clashes between supporters of the African National Congress and Inkatha, the Zulu organisation led by Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

In Pretoria, Chief Buthelezi denounced the ANC in talks with government ministers and Bantu Holomisa, the leader of the Transkei homeland who is an ANC sympathiser. The Zulu chief ac-

cused the ANC of using violence to isolate him and his organisation, and criticised Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, for refusing to meet him.

"People are actually dying because the ANC will not talk with Inkatha, and Dr Mandela will not talk with me. It is not I who refuses to see Dr Mandela." Turning to General Holomisa, he said: "What have you done to bring the ANC to its senses and to stop the ANC-inspired carnage?"

Chief Buthelezi said of Mr Mandela: "He makes preposterous political statements to the effect that the negotiating climate is an ANC victory. He clings to the armed struggle formally until last week. He still clings to the punitive isolation of South Africa as necessary. The ANC still attacks Inkatha and KwaZulu."

But Chief Buthelezi repeated his call for peace talks with Mr Mandela, and suggested "hot-line" communications be established between all black leaders.

In the absence of an ANC delegation, General Holomisa voiced the organisation's claim that the police were siding with Inkatha, and called on President de Clerk to put a stop to this. Chief Buthelezi rejected the claim.

A joint statement after the meeting — with R. F. "Pik" Botha, the minister of foreign affairs, and Adriaan Vlok, the minister of law and order — appealed to all political leaders to strive for peace.

But prospects of ending the conflict appear remote. The root cause is a power struggle between the ANC and Inkatha before negotiations on the country's future. The ANC strategy is to isolate the Zulu leader and force him to sit with the government at a two-sided negotiating table, while he is striving for recognition as an independent leader.

Mr de Klerk held separate discussions with Chief Buthelezi and General Holomisa yesterday, and is expected to confer with Mr Mandela next week. But even if he succeeds in bringing the sides together, it does not follow that the violence will end. In spreading from Natal to South Africa's industrial heartland the conflict has acquired a tribal dimension and is in danger of degenerating into a Xhosa-Zulu war.

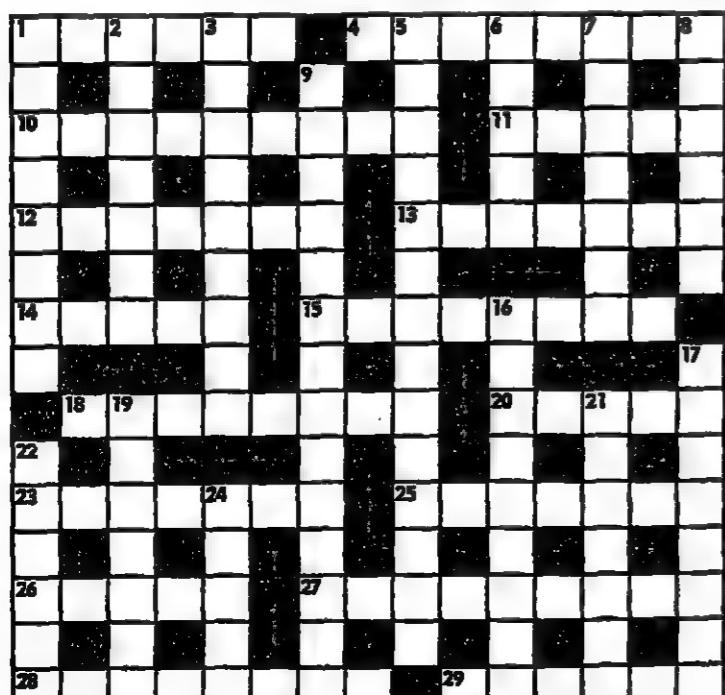
Mr Mandela's room for manoeuvre is limited by militant ANC youths, and as the number of Zulu dead grows, Chief Buthelezi's supporters may expect him to lead them as a warlord.

• Higher fares British Airways is to raise domestic air fares by six per cent from mid-September after a 36.3 per cent increase in the price of aviation fuel since the beginning of August.

The new fares will raise the cost of flying from London to Glasgow by £5 to £87.

Photograph, page 9
Leading article, page 11

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,379



ACROSS

- Tiny creature makes vet lose heart (6).
- It fight, not having to lose consciousness (5).
- Lion's cruel using spur endlessly on horse (9).
- The old note part of speech that's about the close of life (5).
- Leader showing panic at disorder (7).
- Silver involved in bizarre offence (7).
- Grub in spectacular variety (5).
- During walk girl is open to suggestion (8).
- A couple rented jewelry (8).
- Yellow flowers in a ring around window (5).
- Content if stays are tight (7).
- Gypsy holds information about (7).

DOWN

- How stupid am I, to be keeping rising parasites (8).
- Bow's used the wrong way by fiddler (7).
- Accident almost involving foreigner's vehicle (9).
- Get cross, having seen some petrified split (4,4,6).
- Measure how to make ten thousand, say (5).
- Blanket — it provides protection (7).
- There were seven against this article, but eight supporters, initially (6).
- Job only rancher can create, producing malt liquor (4,10).
- Completely change one's views on the subject of sauce (5-4).
- But we're told where this carriage ended (8).
- Give more consideration to the changes accepted by bowlers (7).
- A country — North America, or part of it (7).
- Companion of Cortes, possibly (6).
- Stitch holds in tendon (5).

KEY SIGNATURE
I O N A E I C S
N A R R A T I V E S G R A C E
D K U L I N H M I
R E S I G N M A R T I N E T
E U T G A S A L
D E P A R T H E M I T T A B L E
O C A R A H M I
F U S E T A C E Y A S T Y
S T G L L U
D E L A W A R E M A R C E L
G U M M I R S O E
H I D D E E L E C T O R A L
A F R E M I N G O
C H U B E L L O C K I N G

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 40 percent of the competitors at the 1990 London A Regional final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

POMAK

a. Apple brandy
b. An American tribe
c. A Muslim Bulgar

WABI

a. An attractive flax
b. A dried-up watercourse
c. Samurai's code of honour

ECAD

a. Ecologically adapted
b. A lower-class cad
c. Falstaff's master

SEI

a. An old Japanese coin
b. A musical instruction
c. A whale

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE (intra, roadworks)

C. London (within N & S Circ.) 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M1-Derford T... 733

M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734

M-ways/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 735

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-East England 742

North-West England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Comics Crossword, page 13

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lit on the following days:

10.15am, 4pm, 4.45pm, 5pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9pm and 11pm

Tower Bridge is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak). Includes pollen count.

Information supplied by Met Office

Times Weathercall, page 13

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Times Weathercall, page 13

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Welcome
UK plan
for ecu

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-25
- DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 33-35
- SPORT 36-40

City Editor
John Bell

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22 1990

Co-founder quits Hazlewood board

DENNIS Jones, a co-founder of Hazlewood Foods, has quit the board of the company after his name was not put forward for re-election at the annual meeting in Derby.

Peter Barr, the chairman and the other man behind Hazlewood's meteoric growth during the past 15 years, said because of a recent illness Mr Jones had been unable to give an assurance to the board that he would be able to devote all his time to the company.

The illness followed a "technical omission" made in the listing particulars of an Irish property company, Seafield, of which Mr Jones had also been a director, said Mr Barr.

Mr Jones was criticised by his fellow directors at Seafield after he failed to reveal a £1.28 million payment he received, which he has since repaid, in the listing particulars.

Nadir quizzed

Asil Nadir, the chairman and biggest shareholder of Polly Peck, was asked by the Stock Exchange committee on quotations yesterday why he withdrew his bid approach for the group so abruptly on Friday. The interview is one of a series the committee has conducted over two days to determine the events leading to the withdrawal which wiped 25 per cent from the value of the stock.

Comment, page 23

Willis ahead

Willis Faber, the insurance broker planning a £1.1 billion merger with Corroon & Black in America, reported a 33 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £57.7 million in the first half, despite the sluggish insurance market.

Tempo, page 23

Hickson slips

Hickson International, the chemicals and merchant distributors group, has reported a 10 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £1.3 million for the first half of 1990. The interim dividend is increased by 9 pence to 2.85p.

Tempo, page 23

THE POUNDS

US dollar 1.9210 (+0.0030)
W German mark 2.9900 (-0.0015)
Exchange index 95.8 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1615.7 (-43.8)
FT SE 100 2108.1 (-48.5)
New York Dow Jones 2609.18 (-47.28)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 26297.84 (-192.63)
Closing Prices ... Page 25

Major Indices and major changes Page 22

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month Interbank: 15.5%
3-month Eurobills: 14.1%
US: Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds: 7.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.56-7.58%
30-year bonds: 9.72-9.72%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ 1.9210 £ 1.9221
\$ DM 1.5645 \$ 1.5645
\$ SFr 2.4675 \$ 2.4675
\$ FF 1.2250 \$ 1.2250
\$ DM 2.2580 \$ 2.2580
\$ Index 95.8 \$ 95.8
ECU £0.69265 SDR £0.721620
£ ECU £0.6841 E SDR 1.35770

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$407.25 pm \$413.80
close \$413.75/414.25 (2215.25-
215.75)
New York: Comex \$406.20-406.70*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) ... \$29.00 bbl (\$20.05)
Deduced interest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 2.465 Bank Buys 2.305
Australia Sch 21.90 Bank Sales 20.60
Belgium Fr 2.275 Bank Buys 2.145
Denmark Kr 11.59 Bank Buys 11.28
Finland Mark 7.38 Bank Buys 6.95
France Fr 10.47 Bank Buys 9.87
Germany Dm 2.315 Bank Buys 2.295
Greece Dr 301 Bank Buys 265
Hong Kong \$ 15.48 Bank Buys 14.59
Ireland Pt 1.168 Bank Buys 1.140
Italy Lira 1250 Bank Buys 1150
Japan Yen 285.50 Bank Buys 275.50
Netherlands Gld 3.465 Bank Buys 3.305
Norway Kr 12.10 Bank Buys 11.75
Portugal Esc 27.00 Bank Buys 25.75
Spain Pes 5.10 Bank Buys 4.80
Sweden Kr 11.75 Bank Buys 10.50
Switzerland Fr 2.250 Bank Buys 2.05
Turkey Lira 5240 Bank Buys 4840
USA \$ 2.00 Bank Buys 1.80
Yugoslavia Dinar 25.00 Bank Buys 19.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 126.0 (July)

OS

UK needs years of austerity, says OECD

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE British economy faces years of austerity if long-term inflationary pressures are to be removed, according to a report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In a generally gloomy review of underlying economic trends, economists at the Paris group say there is no sign that the rise in inflation has been firmly stopped. The government faces a bigger challenge of bringing down inflation permanently even if the latest rise in prices is tempered.

"This will call for a tight stance of macroeconomic policies for the foreseeable future," says the report.

The government is criticised for letting the public

Differing forecasts (% rise)

	OECD 1990	1991	Treasury 1990
Gross domestic product (rise)	1.00	2.00	1.00
Private consumption	1.00	1.50	1.25
Government consumption	0.75	1.00	0.25
Private investment	-1.25	0.75	-2.0
Public investment	4.00	4.50	3.75
Exports	7.50	6.75	7.25
Consumer price (underlying)	6.75	6.00	n/a
Unemployment rate (%)	6	6	n/a
Balance of payments deficit	£17.5bn	£14bn	£15bn

inflation. Swift entry into the ERM could therefore be justified even before inflation has been brought nearer continental levels, because this could help cut ingrained inflationary expectations on pay.

The report is relatively optimistic about growth, forecasting a rise from 1 to 2 per cent next year because of buoyant demand for exports.

But this is mainly because it does not expect the government's anti-inflationary policy to achieve quick success due to the strength of pay increases and a relatively slow adjustment by industry.

Underlying consumer price inflation, adjusted for distortions due to the Community charge, is forecast to stay at 6 per cent next year. The trade

deficit is expected to remain much higher than the chancellor has predicted.

The credit squeeze has had only limited success, says the OECD, because domestic output has dropped, as has consumer demand.

"The overall balance between domestic demand and supply has not yet improved much," the report concludes. "On present policies, the rebalancing process of the economy is likely to continue, though at a slow pace."

Britain's balance of payments deficit is also a more central problem than the government admits, the report suggests. With the heavy outflow of long-term portfolio investment, this makes Britain dependent on attracting volatile short-term money. Even

after entry into the ERM, therefore, there may well be a risk premium on sterling that will require higher interest rates than in other member countries, even if high rates were not needed for domestic monetary policy.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said: "The OECD's forecasts demonstrate the extent of Britain's domestic economic problems, problems that are entirely of the government's making."

"The report leaves no scope for the government to blame its economic failings on the Gulf crisis and shows how poorly placed Britain is to cope with the economic consequences."

Comment, page 23
Perils of hot money, page 23

West 'has little hope of curbing oil price'

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL analysts are sceptical about the ability of Western governments to tame volatile prices in the Rotterdam spot market by releasing strategically held stocks, currently at record levels.

However, as oil prices surge towards \$30 a barrel, forcing the cost of petrol even higher, industrial nations are likely to come under increasing political pressure from hard-hit consumers to begin to draw down substantial strategic reserves built up since the last oil crisis.

The International Energy Agency estimated that by the end of July, stocks held by members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development amounted to 99 days of forward cover, with companies holding 69 days' stocks and governments the balance. About two-thirds of total reserves of 1 billion barrels are held in America.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has said output should not be increased to offset the loss of 4 million barrels of oil a day from Iraq and Kuwait while Western stocks are so high.

Even though Saudi Arabia has said that it is ready to produce an additional 2 million barrels, spot market prices have been driven higher by fears that demand will outstrip supply, particularly as the northern hemisphere approaches the winter quarter.

By releasing for sale strategically held oil, governments could in theory hit prices in Rotterdam, the world's leading market for physical oil stocks. But they are thought unlikely to act yet.

Jeremy Hudson, an analyst at Shearson Lehman Brothers, the American securities house, said: "People are frightened that things will get a lot worse. By releasing stocks now governments would possibly be exposing all potential to head off a crisis if things get really bad."

According to Shearson Lehman, stocks held by oil companies provide cover for 70 days, against 87 days in 1982 when demand was 6.5 million barrels a day lower than in 1990.

Under an EC directive, European countries are required to maintain 90 days of forward cover. Britain, which is a net exporter of oil, has special dispensation and normally maintains a lower level of stocks.

Oil traders fear that the use of strategic stocks at this stage would send exactly the opposite signal to the market to the one the government intended.

Stephen Turner, an analyst at Smith New Court, said: "We had always assumed that Opec would increase production. What the market is asking is whether the Saudis can increase production but whether there will be a war."

In Rotterdam, spot gasoline prices rose another \$10 to \$400 a tonne, an 11-year high.

Spot prices have risen by 22 per cent in one week and by 55 per cent since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, easily outpacing a 36 per cent increase in the price of Brent crude.

In New York, oil futures had topped the \$29 a barrel level but in early afternoon trading the West Texas Intermediate was down 51 cents a barrel at \$28.05.

The US bond market was chaotic with the yield on the 30-year treasury bond reaching the 9 per cent mark for the first time since May before running slightly to trade at 8.9 per cent yields in early afternoon trading.

Events in the Middle East continued to drive spot and future prices of crude oil. In London, October Brent, which opened at \$27.38 a

Next deals to net £80m



NEXT, the fashion and mail order retailer, is believed to be close to selling both its property development portfolio and Club 24, its credit card management operation. It has started pre-marketing Next properties which were valued in the company's accounts at £66 million. They include a large number of high street retail sites. If a deal is not done within the next few weeks, Next is expected to finalise its £133 million in borrowings.

Ford Stellar Morris, the property company chaired by Irvine Stellar, has made an offer of about £40 million for the property development portfolio. A deal is expected to be reached in the next four weeks.

FSM is believed to have been given an exclusive option to buy the operation. Next is expected to have finalised both deals by the time it announces interim results in October.

The proceeds of the sales will be used to reduce borrowings and could bring Next's gearing ratio down from 34 per cent to 15 per cent. There is also the possibility that the group will buy back some of the £100 million in convertible bonds issued in 1987.

Recently found a tenant for half its London flagship store in Kensington High Street, Pentos, the retailer which owns the bookshop chain Diltons, is to create London's largest book store on the site.

Stephen Turner, an analyst at Smith New Court, said: "These are emergency stockpiles after all — they exist to be used only in an emergency. The market would deduce that governments are therefore preparing for the worst."

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Roof caves in on girder cartel

By DEREK HARRIS
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THREE national suppliers of steel roofing sections used in commercial buildings are being taken to the restrictive practices court for operating a secret cartel to share out markets and fix prices.

Alleged covert deals were struck between Ayrshire Metal Products (Daventry), of Irvine, Ayrshire; Metal Sections of Oldbury, West Midlands, part of the Metsec group; and Ward Building Systems, based at Malton, North Yorkshire, which is part of Ward Group.

The account for a substantial part of the steel purflins (triangulated roof girders) market and have admitted to secret accords over seven years from 1983 onwards. The agreements have now ended.

This is the latest in a series of price-fixing cartels uncovered in the construction materials industry by the Office of Fair Trading. Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, has said the construction materials industry had the worst record for such practices.

Sir Gordon has campaigned for tougher laws to deter the cartels. Last year a white paper proposed reforms to the 30-year-old restrictive trade practices legislation, including powers to impose fines of up to £1 million on offending companies and up to £100,000 on company directors or managers involved in making cartel arrangements.

Companies can be

Airtours to set up its own airline

By JONATHAN PRYNN

AIRTOURS, Britain's fourth largest tour operator, is to set up its own airline in response to the collapse of a number of small independent airlines.

The company is to lease five new short-haul aircraft, which will provide 60 per cent of its summer and 90 per cent of its winter requirements.

The airline, using the Airtours name, is expected to be operation by next spring. It will take bookings only from within the Airtours group.

Airtours is expected to decide within three weeks whether to lease Boeing, Airbus or McDonnell Douglas aircraft.

Its flying costs, which run to "many tens of millions of pounds" will not be reduced by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent on services where the in-house airline is used, said Harry Coe, finance director. The aircraft will be considerably more fuel-efficient than the aircraft now chartered by Airtours.

Airtours hopes to achieve "industry average" profits on the airline operations — about £750,000 a year per aircraft — by their second year of use.

David Crossland, the chairman, said the withdrawal from the British market of independent airlines like Paramount, Hispania and British

Pickwick benefits in belt tightening

By JONATHAN PRYNN

PICKWICK Group, the cut-price record, tape, compact disc and video distributor, improved interim pre-tax profits by 60 per cent to £1.54 million as consumers, hit by higher interest rates, opted for products at the lower end of the market.

Ivor Schlosberg, chairman, said consumers who used to pay £10 to £11 for a CD were now paying £5 to £6 for cheaper lines. The company also benefited from its concentration on "collectable" videos, such as those associated with a particular football team. These tend to be bought by enthusiasts regardless of economic conditions.

Sales increased 50 per cent to £29.9 million and earnings per share 42 per cent to 3.88p.

Pickwick also announced the purchase of Crescent Direct, an audio and video mail order specialist, for a maximum £5 million. The final figure will be based on a three-year earnings related formula.

The £110,000 initial payment will be in cash and the deferred consideration through issues of Pickwick shares.

Mr Crossland said trading conditions remained "encouraging". The company traditionally carries the bulk of its profits in the second half. Last year, pre-tax profits were £4.4 million.

The interim dividend has been increased by 32 per cent to 1.65p from 1.25p.



Strong demand: John Jackson, chairman of CEI

CEI slips to £5.3m

CAMBRIDGE Electronic Industries says events in the Middle East have resulted in a strong demand for the group's chemical agent monitors and explosive detection devices. A hand-held chemical agent monitor costs £5,000 but CEI

is working on a cheaper version. CEI yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £5.33 million (£6.33 million) for the half year to end-June and declared an interim dividend of 3.3p (3p) a share. Temps, page 22

EBC Group housing sales slump

EBC Group, the southwest building contractor, has reduced its house building activities again. Having cut annual sales from £10 billion in 1988 to £10 in 1989, it sold just 17 units in the first six months of 1990.

Pre-tax profits at halfway were £2.2 million, narrowly down on 1989. More than half group profit came from contracting activities. The interim dividend stays at 3.5p.

David Stoneman, chairman, said: "The group's balance sheet is strong with negligible net borrowings at the half year and this reduced the effect of high interest rates."

Kuwaitis pull out of Asko stake deal

By OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

KUWAITI investors have pulled out of the DM300 million acquisition of a 10 per cent stake in Asko, one of West Germany's largest retail groups, because of the tension in the Middle East.

The stake has been taken up by Westdeutsche Landesbank (WestLB), one of the country's largest banks.

Asko also said the previous nomination of Sheikh Yousef Al-Sabah to its supervisory board had been cancelled.

Neither Asko nor WestLB has disclosed the price. Lonrho, the international trading

company, paid DM281 million for a 10 per cent stake in Asko a month ago. Metro, the Swiss retail group, paid the same price for a 10 per cent stake last year. This price also reflects the present stock market value. The shares traded yesterday at about DM855.

The sale of the 10 per cent stake to WestLB completes the financial restructuring of Asko, leaving WestLB, Lonrho, Metro and Beghels Holding with stakes of 10 per cent each.

Asko expects a large rise in operating profits this year.

Electricity profit warnings

By MARTIN WALLER

THE profit forecasts that will accompany the flotation of the country's 12 electricity distribution companies this autumn will have to be hedged with "health warnings" to allow them to pass International Stock Exchange listing regulations.

There is already disquiet in the City that companies that have no trading record before March 31 are being given a listing contrary to normal exchange rules, which require a three-year record.

This rule was relaxed for the flotation of the ten regional water companies' last year because they had clear precedents, in the shape of the

draw potential investors' attention to the uncertainties involved.

Meanwhile, Legal & General has denied reports that it has dropped plans to put together a buyout plan for PowerGen.

"We are an interested party

up until the date at which a mandate is finally given by PowerGen," said David Rough, managing director of securities at L & G. Any involvement by L & G would have to have the blessing of PowerGen management, he said. The management is attempting to put together a buyout package with S G Warburg, its merchant bank.

Middle East fears push German shares down 5.2%

Frankfurt SHARES plunged 5.2 per cent as investors pulled out of the market, frightened that the war of words and economic sanctions against Iraq would soon escalate into military confrontation.

Prices started lower and continued their steady fall throughout a lively trading day. The DAX index ended 85.73 points down at a low for this year of 1,549.96.

Dealers said that both domestic and foreign investors sold heavily, although volumes tailed off later as most investors had already left the market. One trader said: "The mood was dreadful. Nobody wanted to hold German stocks any more."

Major blue chips were among the heaviest falls. Dealers said worries about the East German economy were almost completely overshadowed by the Gulf.

Increasingly worrying economic and political news from East Germany was compounded on Monday by the announcement that the president of East Germany's trust

agency had resigned after only one month. The resignation of Reiner Goebel, the head of the Treuhandanstalt, came in the face of overwhelming problems with the privatisation of East Germany's 8,000 state firms and the difficulties of attracting Western investment capital.

But such news had little impact on German shares since the Gulf troubles started on August 2.

The DAX index is now some 343 points, or 18 per cent, below its close on August 1. It was last at these levels in late November. Optimistic forecasts that the DAX could surge to a high of above 2,000 points by the end of this year have had to be revised within half an hour.

What followed was almost as interesting as the market's initial reaction to the fabricated news. The market regained some of its losses, but by late morning was still some 28 points off the day's opening. As one dealer commented: "If that is all the bounce (recovery) we're going to get when the rumour is false, what on earth is going to happen when it turns out to be true?"

London managed to retain what nerves it still had for a full two hours, before it became clear that Wall Street was not going to show the same early resilience that it had on Monday.

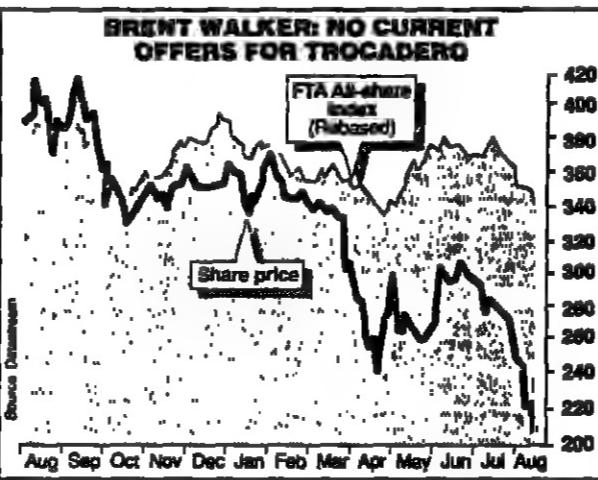
As the American market tumbled on a wave of futures-related selling, London followed it down. In London's last half-hour of trading, Wall Street's fall neared 80 points, dragging the FT-SE 100 index almost 60 points lower. But as both markets recovered their nerve somewhat, the FT-SE closed 40p to 455p, while SmithKline Beecham lost 45p to 915p. ICI lost 10p to 901p. Searle & Search fell 1p to 61p, while WPP, after attempting a rally, slid 5p to

downgradings and general American nervousness.

Glaxo was another American favourite on the way down, 20p cheaper at 70p, further hampered by concern about the prospects for its anti-ulcer drug. Wellcome tumbled 40p to 455p, while SmithKline Beecham lost 15p to 915p. ICI lost 10p to 901p. Searle & Search fell 1p to 61p, while WPP, after attempting a rally, slid 5p to

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE ends 48 points down as London follows New York



lion shares traded. Gilt's lost about half a point as the prospect of lower interest rates faded.

Stocks popular with American investors continued to beat the brunt of the fall. Reuters continued its extraordinary slide, falling another 80p to 780p. In the past four days, Reuters has fallen by 250 points as a result of profit

reports that the huge mixed-use complex was for sale at between £300 million and £350 million.

The excitement mounted yesterday morning on reports that the building was actually sold.

However, this was denied by George Walker, the Brent Walker chairman, who, as a result, had to watch his shares slide by 23p to 202p. The position appears to be that Brent Walker's 50 per cent stake in the Trocadero development is for sale, but only if someone offers Mr Walker £150 million to £175 million.

The remaining 50 per cent of the Troc is owned by the Power Corporation, which says it has no plans to sell its holding in the short term.

A £70 million facility arranged with the Sanwa Bank of Japan last year apparently allows the joint company, Walker Power, to hold the investment comfortably and many of the improvements and additions to the complex are yet to be completed. Power Corporation dropped 3p to 125p.

Unconfirmed reports of disposals did nothing for Rosehaugh, which despite the suggestions that part of its jointly-owned Broadgate development would shortly be sold, dropped 5p to 110p. Stanhope Properties, which owns the remaining 50 per cent of Broadgate, dropped 6p to 901p in the US.

Shares in the second day of trading after its four-month suspension proved almost as hard going as its first.

The shares closed down 3p to 14p, compared with the 10p right issue price.

The shares started the week encouraged by weekend press

Takeover of Perchem referred to MMC

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE £4 million takeover by NL Industries of Perchem, the specialist chemicals division of the Dutch group Akzo, based in Manchester, has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the trade department.

There are fears that the takeover could give NL an American chemicals group, a dominating share of the market for organoclays, a specialist chemical additive. NL's holding company, Valhi, also owns a 44 per cent stake in Baroid, Europe's third largest company in this sector after Valhi/NL and Perchem, which was set up ten years ago by former employees of NL.

The Perchem takeover would give NL/Valhi and Baroid more than 50 per cent of the market for low-grade organoclays, used on oil drills to prevent overheating, and between one third and one half of high-grade organoclays, used as additives to improve the consistency of paints.

Customers of the two companies in both sectors are understood to have complained that the takeover might lead to price increases.

The European market for low-grade organoclays is worth about £3 million and for high-grade products, £55 million. The Monopolies Commission has been asked to produce a report before November 30.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Troubled Cray sees pre-tax loss of £2.8m

CRAY Electronics, the troubled electronic equipment manufacturer now under new management, suffered pre-tax losses of £2.8 million for the year to end-April. There was an extraordinary charge of £10.3 million in respect of closures and stock write-downs, resulting in a loss of 2.84p a share against earnings of 0.72p last time. There is no dividend, against last year's total of 4.3p.

Taxable profits for the previous financial year have been restated for the second time, down from £5.4 million to £3.3 million, to cover stock write-off and further revision of the accounts. Turnover was £11.7 million, against £10.7 million. Operating profits rose from £4.87 million to £3.92 million.

Japan orders Boeing 747s

ALL Nippon Airways of Japan has ordered 17 Boeing 747-400 jumbo jets for a total of \$3.5 billion, Boeing announced yesterday. In a statement, Boeing, the world's leading aircraft manufacturer, said delivery of the four-engined aircraft would begin in 1995 and would be completed in the year 2000.

GFSA moves ahead

GOLD Fields of South Africa, the country's second largest mining group, is holding its final dividend at R1.30 a share, making an unchanged R2 for the year.

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-June were R452.2 million, against R366.7 million, but a higher tax charge left net profits attributable to ordinary shareholders at R360.6 million, against R329.8 million. Gold Fields of South Africa also made an extraordinary R97.5 million (R22.7 million) profit on the sale of investments. Anglo American and associates' 25 per cent stake in GFSA is being examined by the South African Competition Board.

Oil boost for Cavendish

CAVENDISH International Holdings

CAVENDISH International Holdings, the investment subsidiary of Hutchison Whampoa, expects to benefit from higher oil prices. The group announced net profits up 35 per cent to HK\$547 million (£26.7 million) for the six months to end-June, and forecast improved earnings by its Canadian associate, Husky Oil.

Lowe sells divisions

ROBERT H Lowe, the clothing manufacturer that owns Babygro, is selling two divisions, Lewing Sportswear and DH Leonard, to their management for £3 million to reduce group borrowings. Lowe made a pre-tax loss of £371,000 for the six months to end-April against a profit of £551,000. Turnover rose from £18.4 million to £18.9 million and the loss per share was 7.44p against earnings of 4.67p. There is no interim dividend.

Interest payable rose from £652,000 to £947,000 and there was an extraordinary charge of £310,000. Lowe said losses at Babygro had been the main problem and the division's programme for replacing management and installing proper control systems had proved costly.

WALL STREET

New York BLUE-chips edged lower again after recovering more than half of a 3 per cent loss at midday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down by 31.9 points at 2,624.5 in early afternoon trading after falling by more than 75 points earlier in the day, triggering New York Stock Exchange circuit breakers.

While Iraq's offer to talk to

Washington about the Middle East troubles gave shares a brief boost, overall sentiment remained extremely bearish.

James Kall, the president of Compu-Val Investments, said: "Everybody thinks that this uncertainty is leading to war. People are nervous."

Falling shares outnumbered rises by about six to one on a volume of more than 140 million shares.

(Reuter)

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MAJOR CHANGES

F&O 536 1/2 (-260)
Reuters 759 1/2 (-79)
Rank Org 616 1/2 (-32)
Globe 455 1/2 (-40)
Welcome 602 1/2 (-20)
Guinness 602 1/2 (-20)
De La Rue 255 1/2 (-22)
Euro Disney 850 1/2 (-28)
Brent Walker 202 1/2 (-23)
Gilio 700 1/2 (-201)
ECC Group 330 1/2 (-22)
Wharman 330 1/2 (-30)
Hawkins Society 454 1/2

Watch our lips, no more tax cuts, is the clear, if inevitably coded message from the OECD in Paris to John Major in Downing Street. The message is not entirely new. In previous reviews on the British economy, the OECD has come out as a critic of the 1987 tax cuts for fuelling domestic demand and thereby inflation. But the advice will be treated carefully, since the review is a friendly exercise closely involving the Treasury and the Bank of England's own analyses of the economy.

The warning is also timely. As a discipline to change inflationary expectations, the OECD backs swift entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the EMS even before the crucial condition of bringing UK inflation nearer to continental levels has been met.

Once that happens, fiscal policy will have to resume a stronger role in economic management since the authorities' ability to manipulate interest rates to control the economy may sometimes conflict with the obligation to keep

sterling stable against the mark. The public sector debt repayment, an apparently stable anchor of the medium-term financial strategy, has been allowed to fade away as an instrument of policy in recent years. The target surplus has tended to be set at whatever level was actually achieved in the previous year, regardless of the target for that year. This year's target is therefore £3 billion lower than envisaged in the MTFS a year earlier.

The surplus is also fading away in a literal sense far more rapidly than envisaged. Discounting £5 billion of privatisation proceeds, the 1990-91 target is only £2 billion and, allowing for local authority asset sales, may not be a surplus at all. There is also some doubt about whether the target will be met, partly due to tax revenue becoming less buoyant and partly because of confusion over local authority spending with the advent of the

poll tax. Next year that confusion may continue unless Chris Patten devises a foolproof support scheme. Pressures to raise public spending are also unlikely to go away.

If the fight against ingrained inflation through the annual pay round is a long-term haul, the leitmotif of the review, then fiscal policy will need to be active and much tougher than the chancellor assumed in his 1990 Budget.

Since then, fears of inflation have risen and fears of recession have been brushed aside, despite carnage in the high street and the property market and increasingly anxious warnings from the CBI.

Few domestic commentators would dismiss a decade of progress through the MTFS quite as cavalierly as the OECD appears to do, despite the

catalogue of missed forecasts and falling credibility. There is little dispute, however, that entry into the ERM will represent a new beginning as well as a new anchor for policy.

Policy will need to be as severe in the early nineties as in the early eighties. But this time, there may be no tax cuts to sugar the pill.

This leaves the government highly dependent on delivering some deceptively good RPI figures and an interest rate cut next year to offer the electorate. There may be precious little else.

POLY PECK

THE Stock Exchange committee on quotations interviewed its star witness yesterday in the investigation

into Asil Nadir's curious bid approach for Polly Peck. The witness of course was Mr Nadir who must explain why he took his toe out of the water less than one week after inserting it thereby wreaking havoc on Polly Peck's share price. It plunged more than £1 or 25 per cent in one hour.

It will take the committee another day to decide what to do about it, but there appears to be nothing of substance which can be done.

Three options present themselves: delisting which would penalise innocent shareholders, suspension of share trading which is not much better or a public wiggling for Mr Nadir.

The third looks by far the most likely, but it is a limp and inadequate response in view of the financial damage suffered by long term shareholders, let alone the unfortunate who purchased in good faith just before Polly Peck shares nosedived.

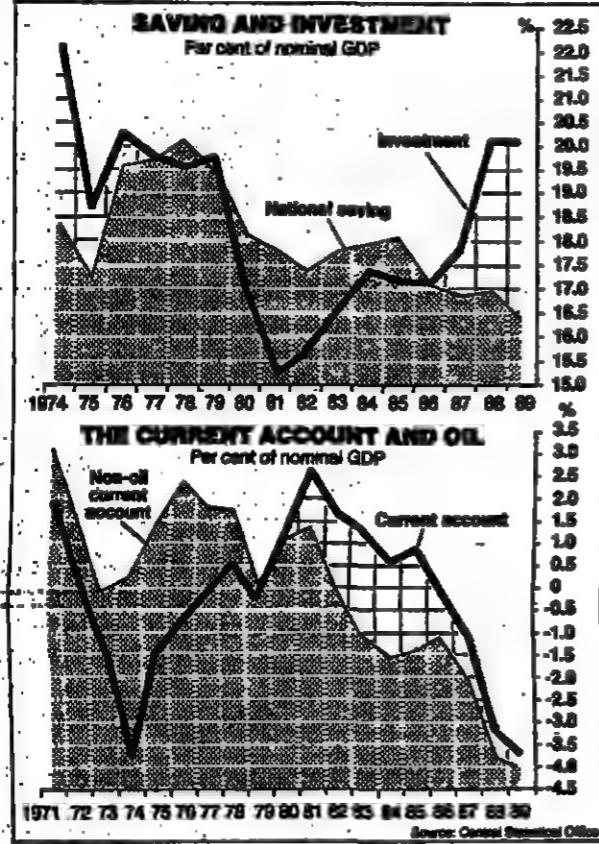
It looks increasing as though Mr Nadir made an unduly hasty and ill-considered decision to announce his bid plan.

Had he consulted advisers first, he would at least have had the benefit of an independent view of his chances of success. It may well be that he would have decided against on the grounds that a value far higher than the then market price was needed to assure victory. As the biggest institutional shareholder, Friends Provident said on Friday that nothing had happened to change the company's outlook or performance but a disenchanted stock market reacted by caning Mr Nadir for leading it down the garden path.

Mr Nadir said he wanted to buy the 74 per cent of the company he did not already own because the market consistently undervalued the group.

If he is serious about repairing the damage to his reputation and that of his company, Mr Nadir might consider some form of compensation, at the very least a partial tender offer at the highest price reached before the ill-starred bid plan was dropped.

Why Britain needs saving from perils of hot money



The OECD scarcely considers the role of the exchange rate in this adjustment.

Instead, it follows the analysis favoured by the government in attributing a long-term trade gap to the underlying gap between domestic savings and investment.

The problem lies in the savings ratio in Britain, which along with that in America, lies at the bottom of the industrial country league. Its investment rate is nearer average.

The culprits are familiar: easier credit, easier mortgages and rising house prices have raised people's capacity to borrow. As the Bank of England's

Capital investment has recovered, but only to the average rates of the pre-North Sea period. Savings have tumbled, as they have in other advanced countries, but from

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
Financial Editor

a lower base. This has left a large gap, scarcely dented by a recent recovery of savings and a downturn in industrial investment.

The problem lies in the

savings ratio in Britain, which

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borrow. As the Bank of Eng-

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Wise move for Dickinson

CLEARLY far from happy with his reduced waistline – brought about by the near-mile walk from Bank station to Laing & Cruickshank's new Broadgate offices – retail analyst John Dickinson – a former main board director of CCF Laurence Prust, to join as institutional sales director. His departure leaves athletic Tony Shiret – a dab hand at 400 metres hurdles – and Brian Rayner, ex-Lehman Brothers, holding the retail fort on their own until a replacement is found. Meanwhile, not to be outdone, the London office of Wise Speke has enticed Robert Bruce, a former main board director of CCF Laurence Prust, to join as institutional sales director. Although Bruce will be based in the City, he will have responsibility for all three sales teams in London, Newcastle and Manchester. "Wise Speke is one of the best names in the Northeast, and one of the biggest brokers outside London," says Bruce, who started this week. "But watch this space, we have lots of plans."

Domino effect

LITTLE did Terry Wood, aged 53, a gilt-edged salesman at Shepards, realise what he was starting when he claimed he was possibly the only grandfather still working in the gilt market. Revealing a well-hidden tender side, the macho men of the gilt market have been falling over themselves to try to find colleagues with grandchildren. First the irrepressible Barry Peart, gilt market-making director at UBS Phillips & Drew, telephoned from his Florida holiday home to say he was a grandfather twice over. And

Full circle

BEESON Gregory, the smaller companies specialist founded by Andrew Beeson and John Gregory, both former partners of Capel-Cure Myers, has just recruited another ex-CCM employee – Nicola Weiner, a corporate financier who joins from Standard Chartered, the merchant bank now known as Chartered WestLB, with an ANZ Capital-Cure for four years. "When I was there I worked with all the founders, John Gregory, John Gordon and Bob Lederman," Weiner says. "After my probationary period here I will become an associate director."

Foundations shaky
CLEARLY ahead of his time... the Chartered Institute of Building has received a newsletter promoting Arbil-Build 90, the sixth Middle East building, interiors and maintenance show, in Bahrain in November. On the front cover is a quote from Yousef Al-Shirawi, Bahrain's minister of development and industry, which reads: "Looking to the future, say the next ten years, I am convinced that we are now seeing the re-emergence of considerable activity in the construction industry. The main thrust of this industry is going to be in the defence and industrial sectors." Julian Barlow, the institute's PR director, says: "I don't think we'll be recommending any of our members to visit this exhibition at the present time."

Not so City slicker
SO MUCH for the loud-mouthed, boastful City slicker, often perceived as an obnoxious wine- or champagne-swilling lout. According to a survey of 40 City pubs asking landlords about the effect of all-day trading – introduced almost exactly two years ago –

only 10 per cent reported that they heard customers boasting about their "megabucks" salaries, while over half said they were more likely to be discussing problems with staff. Beer, lager, low-alcohol and soft drinks are becoming increasingly popular at the expense of wine and champagne, and as for getting into arguments or fights, 70 per cent of landlords said their City regulars were less troublesome than other pub customers. But some things, it seems, never change. Most landlords admitted they regularly spotted Filofaxes in use, and 95 per cent complained about the omnipresent mobile telephone.

ALPHA STOCKS

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

(*) Local currency.

Daily closing prices for 1990.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

(*) Local currency.

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Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Code or Symbol
1	Lon Int'l	Industrials L-R	
2	Aus New Z	Banks, Discount	
3	Leeds	Textiles	
4	Oliver (G)	Drapery, Stores	
5	TNT	Transport	
6	Wessex	Banks, Discount	
7	Cambridge Elec	Electricals	
8	Sovereign	Oil/Gas	
9	Trinity Int'l	Newspapers/Pubs	
10	Tunstall	Electricals	
11	Capita Oil	Oil/Gas	
12	Touchstone	Electricals	
13	Gates Gross	Paper, Print, Adv.	
14	Flogos	Industrials E-K	
15	Union Square	Property	
16	Sheffield Int'l	Building, Roads	
17	Howard Higgs	Building, Roads	
18	Savoy Hotels "A"	Hoteis, Caterers	
19	Friendly Hotels	Hoteis, Caterers	
20	Macro 4	Electricals	
21	Copcos PLC	Building, Roads	
22	Blenheim Exhib	Newspapers/Pub	
23	CIA Grn	Paper, Print, Adv.	
24	Brookes	Property	
25	Wholesale Fruites	Electricals	
26	Unilever	Industrials S-Z	
27	Grampian	Leisure	
28	New Corp	Newspapers/Pub	
29	Erich	Building, Roads	
30	Nat Am Int'l	Banks, Discount	
31	General Motor	Motors, Aircraft	
32	McKay Seas	Property	
33	Groveswood Sec	Industrials E-K	
34	Forward Tech	Electricals	
35	Cullens	Foods	
36	LASMO (am)	Oil/Gas	
37	Newmark (Louis)	Electricals	
38	Poly Peck (am)	Foods	
39	Clayton Cos	Industrials A-D	
40	Park Foods	Foods	
41	Fine Art Dev	Drapery, Stores	
42	Moss Bros	Drapery, Stores	
43	Pentland	Industrials L-R	
44	Mits	Electricals	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Fund	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
1	FTSE 100	1,090.05	-1.05	1.0%	
2	FTSE 100	1,091.00	+1.00	1.0%	
3	FTSE 100	1,092.00	+2.00	1.0%	
4	FTSE 100	1,093.00	+3.00	1.0%	
5	FTSE 100	1,094.00	+4.00	1.0%	
6	FTSE 100	1,095.00	+5.00	1.0%	
7	FTSE 100	1,096.00	+6.00	1.0%	
8	FTSE 100	1,097.00	+7.00	1.0%	
9	FTSE 100	1,098.00	+8.00	1.0%	
10	FTSE 100	1,099.00	+9.00	1.0%	
11	FTSE 100	1,100.00	+10.00	1.0%	
12	FTSE 100	1,101.00	+11.00	1.0%	
13	FTSE 100	1,102.00	+12.00	1.0%	
14	FTSE 100	1,103.00	+13.00	1.0%	
15	FTSE 100	1,104.00	+14.00	1.0%	
16	FTSE 100	1,105.00	+15.00	1.0%	
17	FTSE 100	1,106.00	+16.00	1.0%	
18	FTSE 100	1,107.00	+17.00	1.0%	
19	FTSE 100	1,108.00	+18.00	1.0%	
20	FTSE 100	1,109.00	+19.00	1.0%	
21	FTSE 100	1,110.00	+20.00	1.0%	
22	FTSE 100	1,111.00	+21.00	1.0%	
23	FTSE 100	1,112.00	+22.00	1.0%	
24	FTSE 100	1,113.00	+23.00	1.0%	
25	FTSE 100	1,114.00	+24.00	1.0%	
26	FTSE 100	1,115.00	+25.00	1.0%	
27	FTSE 100	1,116.00	+26.00	1.0%	
28	FTSE 100	1,117.00	+27.00	1.0%	
29	FTSE 100	1,118.00	+28.00	1.0%	
30	FTSE 100	1,119.00	+29.00	1.0%	
31	FTSE 100	1,120.00	+30.00	1.0%	
32	FTSE 100	1,121.00	+31.00	1.0%	
33	FTSE 100	1,122.00	+32.00	1.0%	
34	FTSE 100	1,123.00	+33.00	1.0%	
35	FTSE 100	1,124.00	+34.00	1.0%	
36	FTSE 100	1,125.00	+35.00	1.0%	
37	FTSE 100	1,126.00	+36.00	1.0%	
38	FTSE 100	1,127.00	+37.00	1.0%	
39	FTSE 100	1,128.00	+38.00	1.0%	
40	FTSE 100	1,129.00	+39.00	1.0%	
41	FTSE 100	1,130.00	+40.00	1.0%	
42	FTSE 100	1,131.00	+41.00	1.0%	
43	FTSE 100	1,132.00	+42.00	1.0%	
44	FTSE 100	1,133.00	+43.00	1.0%	
45	FTSE 100	1,134.00	+44.00	1.0%	
46	FTSE 100	1,135.00	+45.00	1.0%	
47	FTSE 100	1,136.00	+46.00	1.0%	
48	FTSE 100	1,137.00	+47.00	1.0%	
49	FTSE 100	1,138.00	+48.00	1.0%	
50	FTSE 100	1,139.00	+49.00	1.0%	
51	FTSE 100	1,140.00	+50.00	1.0%	
52	FTSE 100	1,141.00	+51.00	1.0%	
53	FTSE 100	1,142.00	+52.00	1.0%	
54	FTSE 100	1,143.00	+53.00	1.0%	
55	FTSE 100	1,144.00	+54.00	1.0%	
56	FTSE 100	1,145.00	+55.00	1.0%	
57	FTSE 100	1,146.00	+56.00	1.0%	
58	FTSE 100	1,147.00	+57.00	1.0%	
59	FTSE 100	1,148.00	+58.00	1.0%	
60	FTSE 100	1,149.00	+59.00	1.0%	
61	FTSE 100	1,150.00	+60.00	1.0%	
62	FTSE 100	1,151.00	+61.00	1.0%	
63	FTSE 100	1,152.00	+62.00	1.0%	
64	FTSE 100	1,153.00	+63.00	1.0%	
65	FTSE 100	1,154.00	+64.00	1.0%	
66	FTSE 100	1,155.00	+65.00	1.0%	
67	FTSE 100	1,156.00	+66.00	1.0%	
68	FTSE 100	1,157.00	+67.00	1.0%	
69	FTSE 100	1,158.00	+68.00	1.0%	
70	FTSE 100	1,159.00	+69.00	1.0%	
71	FTSE 100	1,160.00	+70.00	1.0%	
72	FTSE 100	1,161.00	+71.00	1.0%	
73	FTSE 100	1,162.00	+72.00	1.0%	
74	FTSE 100	1,163.00	+73.00	1.0%	
75	FTSE 100	1,164.00	+74.00	1.0%	
76	FTSE 100	1,165.00	+75.00	1.0%	
77	FTSE 100	1,166.00	+76.00	1.0%	
78	FTSE 100	1,167.00	+77.00	1.0%	
79	FTSE 100	1,168.00	+78.00	1.0%	
80	FTSE 100	1,169.00	+79.00	1.0%	
81	FTSE 100	1,170.00	+80.00	1.0%	
82	FTSE 100	1,171.00	+81.00	1.0%	
83	FTSE 100	1,172.00	+82.00	1.0%	
84	FTSE 100	1,173.00	+83.00	1.0%	
85	FTSE 100	1,174.00	+84.00	1.0%	
86	FTSE 100	1,175.00	+85.00	1.0%	
87	FTSE 100	1,176.00	+86.00	1.0%	
88	FTSE 100	1,177.00	+87.00	1.0%	
89	FTSE 100	1,178.00	+88.00	1.0%	
90	FTSE 100	1,179.00	+89.00	1.0%	
91	FTSE 100	1,180.00	+90.00	1.0%	
92	FTSE 100	1,181.00			

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Top legal company in the city are looking for a secretary in their Corporate Finance Department. Lots of administration, very involved, busy role - super team atmosphere. If you are bright, efficient, confident on the telephone and have at least two years solid secretarial experience (Wang preferred), then this is the position for you. Benefits include Pension/Life Assurance, sports and social club, BUPA and a Bonus Plan.

MOORGATE 071-638-7003

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Work for the Director of this International Financial conglomerate where you will be able to use your many language skills to the full. Involved in translation work, travel arrangements and extensive client liaison. You will benefit from a generous benefits package. Ref. BM/501.

HOLBORN 071-430-2291

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY £12,000-£13,000

If you've got good audio and WP skills (preferably shorthand) as well then this international organisation needs you now! Primarily you will be working for a team, and this is where your initiative and excellent organising and communicating skills can be put to use - providing them with full administrative support. Responsibilities will include general correspondence, reports, dealing with enquiries, organising travel, meetings, etc. So if you're a bit of an international flâneur give us a call now. Ref. YG/5

OXFORD CIRCUS 071-255 3140

CHARMING CHARMAN £14,000

Great opportunity for you to get your teeth into this position. Working for the chairman of this highly rated company of Chartered Surveyors you will become his right hand "man" as you provide overall secretarial backup and help out with client liaison. Excellent package includes bonuses and a friendly working atmosphere! Ref. YN/63

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MARKETING SALES £13,000

Bright, intelligent and from a sales environment, that's what our client is looking for. As PA to the Sales and Marketing Manager you'll be responsible for organising functions, client liaison, administration of sales and promotions, marketing material, advertising, etc. No two days will be the same! Call now for further details. Ref. VZ/453.

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CJES

13 London Wall Buildings,
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Tel: 071-638 8897 or 071-255 3588
Fax No. 287374 Fax No. 071-255 8501

Opportunity to get totally involved at the start.

P.A. TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

£17,000-£18,000

DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL ARM OF FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY
Applications are invited from well-educated candidates aged 26-45 with good secretarial skills, including shorthand and experience within the financial sector at a senior level. As P.A. to the Chief Executive responsible for developing this venture, which is part of a well-known company, you will be providing full secretarial and administrative support. The C.E. is keen to delegate and there will be total involvement including considerable interface with clients and a large amount of personal work! The C.E. is involved in significant travel and has varied business and social interests. Initial remuneration is negotiable £17,000-£18,000 plus discretionary bonus, non-contributory pension, BUPA, free lunch and session ticket loan. Applications in strict confidence under reference PACE/7277 to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL-JOHNTON EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES LIMITED (RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS),
3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5PU AND KNIGHTSBRIDGE OFFICE). TELEPHONE: 071-638 8897 OR 071-255 3588. FAX: 071-255 8501**SEC/ PA £19,000 + Bens**

A special person for International "Blue Chip" Company working for Executive Director destined for great things.

Essential: Educ. to A-level, SH 90/ Typ 60, with clear and impeccable personal presentation aged 35-45. The PA to the Executive Director and deal discreetly with highly confidential and sensitive material.

Superb office and benefits.

Fax CV on 071-279 0891
or send to:
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Enjoy superb benefits and a true P.A. role within this prestigious City company. You'll assist a director who will involve you City wide with his high profile business. A superb opportunity for a well educated individual with executive experience. £100/50 skills.

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PERSONAL SECRETARY

needed to join a small team in our Professional Unit within Moorfields Eye Hospital in City Road, London EC1. The Secretary will work primarily for the newly-created Head of the Department of Clinical Sciences as well as a small team in a busy, varied, interesting and friendly environment. Auto-essential. Word-processing skills required, but training can be given to the right candidate. Self-confidence and excellent organisational skills required, plus the ability to work on own initiative when the need arises. Salary £11,500-£13,011 (inc LA). For further details and an application form please contact Miss Audrey Jones, Assistant Secretary, at the address above. Closing date 5 September 1990.

PA TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Up to £14,000 pa London W1

Particular secretarial experience is required for the General Secretary. Apart from the normal duties you will also be required to co-ordinate and assist in all aspects of Personal Administration.

Applicants are invited from graduates with some previous office experience and fast, accurate, typewriting skills (100wpm). Excellent interpersonal skills, initiative and, above all, warmth of personality are essential qualities. There is a non-smoking policy operated within the office.

Write, with cv, to the Director, Mawson's Executive Selection, Pender House, 10 Graydon Place, London, SW1P 1SR.

SECRETARY/PA TO CHAIRMAN

of Group in W1 (Property and Photocopying). Must be mature, flexible, minimum speeds 100 shorthand and 55 typing. Wordperfect 5 desirable. Good salary package negotiable.

Please call Jeff Vickers on 071-439 7786.

Covent Garden Communications... College Leaver Prospects

Highly recommended role in international communications! Perfect start for a young self-starter with potential enthusiasm and plenty of personality. Join this cosy Covent Garden team, working alongside three young Consultants - perfect gentlemen in every way - whilst rely on you and reward you well for your efforts. Organise a packed diary and worldwide travel. 40 wpm typing needed. First-class training. Bright promotion prospects and the social life is likewise. The very best clients in fashion and finance are theirs. Salary to £10,000. Call 071-409 1232 to know more.

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Unique opportunity for a discreet, socially-confident self-starter to become part of an exclusive, small team. Primarily assisting a charming Personal Assistant who provides full PA/admin support to an extremely high-profile dignitary; this is a superb role for a bright, articulate individual who has a genuine interest in current affairs. General secretarial support, co-ordinating travel itineraries, helping to plan an extremely hectic diary etc. Polished presentation and confident skills (80/50) absolutely pre-requisite. Age 19+. Superbly appointed office. Telephone 071-493 5757 for further details.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS**£12,000 + BENEFITS**

If you have a strong, lively personality and enjoy working with people and enjoy the challenge of working for a major company, then this is the place for you. You will be handling the day-to-day running of the company in a range of personal work and organising and co-ordinating its activities. You will be part of a team of professionals and will be supported by a team of experienced staff. You will be involved in the preparation of reports and presentations, as well as attending meetings and negotiations. You will be required to work evenings and weekends.

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 071 614 6242

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

(reference JU/1)
required for a small busy office (professional body) in Liverpool Street area. To deal with complaints from the members of the public. Would suit Graduate with Law/Insurance knowledge, to handle enquiries in writing and over the telephone. Salary circa £10,000, 4 weeks holiday, season ticket.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

(reference AC/1)
required for same office, dealing with telephone calls and correspondence. Some insurance knowledge an advantage. World exp/ A/RND level qualification candidate. Salary c.£9,000. Same benefits as above.

Please call Miss Keys on 071-588 4387

No overtime payable.

Early Bird £17,000 package

Spring into action as secretary to delightful joint Head of the Stockbroking Division at large City based financial institution. Keep a cool head while working to deadlines, chasing printers and setting up his travel arrangements. Experience of a similar fast-paced environment, client contact and a knowledge of a European language would be an asset. Hours 8-4 and paid O/T, skills 90/50 & audio, age 28+. Please call Elizabeth Williamson on 071-256 5018.

HOBSTONES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS**Office Manager****£18,000**

An exciting opportunity to join the start-up office of a leading Canadian Consultancy. Their reputation in strategic management is renowned in the States and because of their success they are now moving into Europe with London as their Head Office. They need a confident administrator who can initially set-up the office and its systems. You will then be responsible for the smooth day-to-day running of the operation. You will need to manage the consultants who travel to clients all over Europe and to liaise with the office. You are also their man contact with California. There will be work on Desk Top Publishing as assignments are coming in. Computer interest or experience in computers is essential.

You will be used to working on your own initiative and not mind manning the office on your own at times.

Skills: 60 typing

Age: 25-35 years

Golden Square Office

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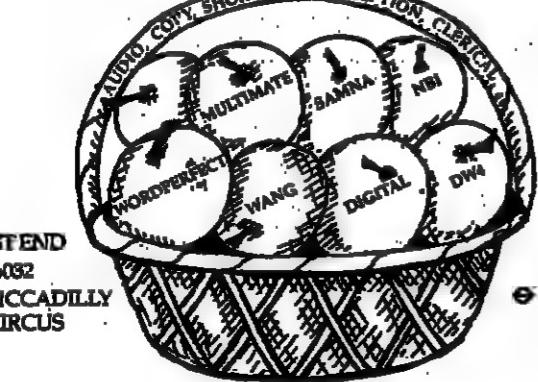
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Developers bet on a 1992 boom for City

About 15 million sq ft of new office buildings are scheduled for completion in the City of London by the end of 1991, the agent Weatherall Green & Smith concludes in a survey of development sites of more than 20,000 sq ft.

Of the estimated 15 million sq ft planned for the City, about 4.35 million sq ft is either pre-let or under offer. Weatherall says these figures could suggest an oversupply but this is not necessarily the case. The market for modern City offices is likely to stabilise over the next year for a number of reasons.

Fred Hargreaves of Weatheralls points to interest in several buildings now nearing completion. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is in the market for 160,000 sq ft by the end of next year. Other large occupiers are thought to be close to agreeing terms for new space. In all, up to one million sq ft of new space could soon be absorbed.

A second reason is that many occupiers, particularly professional firms, are under pressure to move to quality modern buildings to upgrade their image and remain competitive in attracting the best workforce. They are likely to allocate more space per employee to accommodate information technology and improve their employees' working environment.

Another factor is increasing evidence that developers are deferring projects where there is no prospective tenant. This will have an impact this year but some building

New offices nearing completion in central London could fail to meet demand in the future race for space

scheduled for next year may be deferred. Building from 1992 onwards is likely to be put on ice until the economic climate is better.

Hargreaves adds that by 1992-93 there may be a shortage of new buildings in the City at a time when the removal of European trade barriers could increase demand. If this happens, it could lead to a significant recovery in the letting market.

A survey of the central London office market by Debenham Tewson Research comes to a slightly different conclusion.

This research indicates that there has been an improvement in take-up this month but the volume of office space coming on to the market, at around 1.8 million sq ft per month, still exceeds demand in the broader market.

The recent rise in take-up stabilised availability during July at 13.6 million sq ft. Debenham Tewson expects further significant rises in supply over the next six to nine months and estimates the stock of ready-to-occupy offices by early 1991 will have reached 16-17 million sq ft.

The survey shows that offices let, sold or placed under offer in the City, Holborn and the West End in July totalled 1.3 million sq ft, an increase of 88 per cent on the June total, and the highest monthly total this year.

Take-up was boosted by a number of large deals of more than 50,000 sq ft, including 160,000 sq ft for Price Waterhouse at Milton Gate, EC2, and 96,000 sq ft agreed by Liffit at Speyman's Canana Bridge station development.

Debenham Tewson says its survey confirmed the continuing demand for large units of new, quality offices at a time when the flow of such space onto the market was at a peak.

The City was helped by the increase in take-up. Available office space fell by three per cent during July to stand at 8.2 million sq ft. An increase in availability of office space, including several of more than 50,000 sq ft, also contributed to the decline in availability.

Oversupply affecting parts of the office market in central London and the south-east could well spread to the regions in 1991 and 1992, says Debenham Tewson.

While most provincial markets are now enjoying a boom, rental growth is down and demographic and economic forecasts do not support the planned level of building, it says.



MEPC has pre-let 23,174 sq ft of its 40,000 sq ft Newmarket office development in Manchester city centre. Salter Leasing has taken a 25-year lease with five yearly rent reviews at a rent of £15.50 a sq ft which, says Lambert Smith Hampton, the letting agents, was local record. Newmarket, scheduled for completion this month, comprises two buildings of five storeys, linked at basement and ground-floor level.

Surrey Business Centres

has introduced what it claims to be a new concept in flexible office accommodation, suitable for both small and larger companies and described as a "bursa". Alan Whitehead, the company's founder, says a bursa is just like an ordinary hotel. In its operation, rather than of bedrooms with bath for hire, there are fully furnished and equipped offices for hire from one day upwards.

The Athiana House bursa is situated above the underground station at Morden, Surrey, within easy reach of the City.

IN THE MARKET

■ Tass, the Soviet news agency, has taken 1,600 sq ft of offices at Swan House on High Holborn, London WC1, at a rent equivalent to £27 a sq ft, from the German publishing company Burda. The move was a result of Land Securities' redevelopment of the agency's former premises at Communications House, Gough Square, off Fleet Street, London EC4.

■ Stamford Land has gained planning permission for a 220

million hotel scheme set in a 75-acre development close to Toyota's new car plant at Willington, Derbyshire. The hotel, which will cost £12 million to build, includes a golf course and leisure centre. It will be well placed to take advantage of custom from the Japanese group's £700 million plant which will employ 3,000 people. The 114 bedroom hotel will have conference facilities, and the leisure scheme is due for completion by the end of 1992, in time for the full operation of the Toyota plant.

Lakeside soaks up £300m

A new shopping centre will be down the road for 13 million people

THURROCK Lakeside at West Thurrock, Essex, which will be one of Europe's largest shopping centres, is to be opened in October by Princess Alexandra.

There is a new £22 million link road joining the M25 to the centre. The road is one of the largest to be built with private funds in recent years, and was opened this month by the developer, Capital & Counties, ahead of schedule, to ease traffic while other road repairs are made.

The £300 million development on 150 acres of wasteland has taken two years to complete, with 2,000 men working on site around the clock.

Denis Marler, chairman of Capital & Counties, says that the centre will be within one hour's drive of 13 million people. He has tried to avoid parking difficulties by providing 9,000 carparking spaces and a 250-space coach park.

The centre includes a 20-acre lake, and will have more than one million square feet of enclosed retail space occupied by about 180 retailers, including major store chains such as Marks & Spencer, Debenhams, House of Fraser, and the Burton group.

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SPORT AND FITNESS

Britons are taking to the bicycle, the gym and the playing fields in an attempt to shape up. Anthony Cox reports on the facts behind the fitness fad

All toned up and fit for anything

Exercise is today's best buy in public health, according to the experts. But it is impossible to measure fitness without asking what the aim is. Medical tests measure the performance of different functions of the body, such as muscular strength or blood pressure, rather than a general physical state.

It is impossible, for example, to say whether a swimmer is fitter than a champion weight-lifter because, according to physical educationists, fitness means nothing more than the ability to carry out a particular activity. The swimmer is fit for swimming, the weight-lifter fit for swinging his dumb-bells. Different sports make different demands.

Nevertheless, at a lower level than the highly defined requirements of a specific sport, there is a sense in which we know what it means to be unfit. The person who finds himself breathless after climbing upstairs, for example, will grudgingly admit to being out of condition.

Exercise can benefit everyone, particularly the couch potato who ought to be fit enough to run for the bus when the need arises. Exercise contributes to an improvement in well-being and, even if that is difficult to define, everyone knows what it means.

Professor J.N. Morris, the chair-



Trim, taut and terrific at the Barbican Health & Fitness Centre, London. Exercise is one of the best buys in public health nowadays and it need not cost a fortune



PETER TREVOR

man of the joint Sports Council-Health Education Authority Fitness and Health Advisory Group, considers there is no better way for people to spend 1 or 2 per cent of their time. "Exercise," he says, "contributes to a reduction in mortality and morbidity and adds to the enjoyment of life. People feel better for it and they function better. It is of special value to the elderly in prolonging an active and independent life, and also to those with chronic diseases and disabilities. Many of them could make a start by just a little more walking. Much of the evidence for the benefits of ex-

ercise has been known for a long time but is still regularly ignored."

It is not true that there is no gain without pain, but the pursuit of fitness will not reach his goal without effort. Frank Dick, a coach to Olympic athletes such as Daley Thompson, says: "Coaching someone who wants to lose a few pounds and get into shape is, in principle, no different from an athlete training for an Olympic gold medal."

While everyone has to be prepared to invest effort if they want to be fit, some are so keen to match their exercises to their status that they are prepared to

invest more to sweat it out in style and comfort. Top-class health and fitness clubs in London charge joining fees ranging from £250 to £1,500 and annual membership costs at least another £400.

Nevertheless, many keep-fit enthusiasts get by with little more than a ticket to the municipal swimming pool, a skipping rope and a few square feet of back garden or pair of running shoes and a street map.

For some, the attempt to improve their level of fitness does not even require a lot of effort. It is possible to lie down and exercise — after a fashion — with a machine moving one's muscles. Motorised rolling tables are appearing in Britain after catching the attention of North America's faddies. The tables can help to strengthen muscles without the

heavy stress loads associated with traditional exercise, but they will not do anything for heart or lung fitness, which are always critical factors in any assessment of overall fitness.

The frequently drawn picture of a race of unfit Britons should not be accepted too readily. A recent survey underlined the popularity of cycling, golf and swimming among middle-aged men, and of dancing and keep-fit classes with women. It also showed that one in six young men played football. Another survey of leisure interests among 3,200 youngsters between 11 and 18 years old in Northern

Ireland, discovered that playing sport ranked higher than television or computer games.

However, according to Dr Neil Armstrong, the chairman of the British Association of Sports Sciences, British children are less active than they should be, even if they are not necessarily less fit than their predecessors.

Fitness tests by University of Exeter researchers on 400 children showed that 76.7 per cent of the boys and 87.7 per cent of the girls failed to exercise their hearts sufficiently each week. This is surprising because, as a demonstration that exercise need not be all-demanding to achieve the recommended minimum level of cardiovascular fitness, an individual need only take exercise equivalent to brisk walking for at least 20 minutes three times a week.

This fact is probably well-known, at least intuitively. Sports Council figures estimate that the number of people who regularly go for a walk of at least two miles totals 10 million.

The pursuit of fitness is not without risks. Injuries to muscles, tendons, ligaments and the skeleton can result from contact sports or from straightforward over-use. Should the pursuit of fitness carry a health warning? Not according to the Sports Council, which says: "When exercise is of a suitable intensity for the individual, regular and undertaken with sensible precautions, the benefits greatly outweigh the risks."

● Advice is available from local sports centres, recreation and leisure departments of local councils; the Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0EE; the Health Education Authority, 70 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AH; and from many magazines and books.

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Elsworth's impressive filly In The Groove helps Cauthen to memorable treble on opening day of big Knavesmire meeting

HUGH RUTLEDGE

Belmez earns high ranking with gallant York victory

By MICHAEL SEEY

RACING CORRESPONDENT
BELMEZ stamped himself as the outstanding three-year-old colt in training when giving 1lb and a beating to his four opponents in the Great Voltigeur Stakes at York yesterday.

In The Groove was the other equine star of a brilliant start to the three-day Ebor meeting. David Elsworth's versatile filly showed quite outstanding powers of acceleration to record her third victory from as many starts at York when sprinting clear of Elmamoul and Bushroo to win the group one Juddmonte International Stakes.

Steve Cauthen was in inspired form throughout the afternoon, the strength and determination he showed on Belmez being matched only by the finesse and judgement of pace he showed on In The Groove.

Earlier, Cauthen had initiated a double for himself and

Henry Cecil when driving Sedar to a three-quarters of a length win over Plan Of Action in the Eagle Lane Acom Stakes.

Belmez certainly had to show all the determination, stamina and class that had recently seen him beat his stable companion Old Vic in the King George at Ascot.

Those who had laid 2-1 on Belmez must have had their hearts in their boots as Richard Quinn drove Snurge into a length lead, 1½ furlongs from home. But rallying bravely, Belmez fought back to win by a head. Only three-quarters of a length separated Karinga Bay and Blue Stag, who finished third and fourth respectively.

This dogged display elicited a spontaneous tribute from Geoffrey Gibbs, the senior Jockey Club handicapper. "There are grounds for saying that Belmez could be better than Salsabil," he said. "After all, Karinga Bay and Blue Stag

both confirmed their Gordon Stakes running and they had finished fifth and second respectively in the Derby.

The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the Rothmans International in Toronto and the Breeders' Cup Turf at Belmont Park are now all possible targets for Belmez.

"He's just a very good horse," said Cecil. "After all, he beat Quest For Fame at Chester. We then thought we'd lost him and he needed the race when only third in the Irish Derby."

What an exciting autumn lies ahead for Cauthen and Cecil with both Belmez and Old Vic to represent them in the important middle-distance tests that lie ahead.

"Belmez put his head down and really battled," said Cauthen. "But if they both go the right way, I still think I'd ride Old Vic in the Arc, as he's being kept in training for the race."

In The Groove's burst of finishing speed is always exhilarating to watch. And

after storming clear of her rivals, two furlongs from home, she had to fight her hardest to repel Elmamoul's challenge by 1½ lengths.

As always at this time of the year, form is progressive, and the group one acceleration shown by the winner and runner-up put the likes of Bushroo, Dolpour, Relief Pitcher and Termon firmly in their places.

In an impressive season, In The Groove has given further evidence of Elsworth's remarkable talent by winning the Irish 1,000 Guineas and the Musidora Stakes at York. And it is now obvious that she ran well below her form when only fourth of eight to Salsabil in the Oaks at Epsom.

"She is in most of the big races in the autumn," said Elsworth. "And we'll have to go back home and think about it. It wasn't so much that she was beaten at Epsom that was wrong, it was the fact that she was finished so far from home."



In The Groove and Steve Cauthen surging clear in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York yesterday

The Times continues its countdown to the opening of the football season

Tranmere no longer out on a limbo

FOUR teams stood out in the third division last season and three of them were promoted. Tranmere Rovers were the unlucky ones and they start this season as the clear favourites for promotion.

In June, Tranmere lost in the final of the play-offs to Notts County at Wembley the week after giving a much better performance at the same venue to beat Bristol Rovers, the third division champions, for the Leyland Daf Cup.

During the summer, Tranmere then became victims of the Swindon affair. For 19 days, before Swindon's demotion was reduced from two divisions to one, it seemed that Tranmere had been promoted after all, an incident which wrecked close-season planning.

John King, the manager, said: "It produced a whole lot of problems here because if we were not 100 per cent sure we were up, we were 98 per cent sure. I had to talk to the players with one foot in each of two canoes. I was saying, 'Well, if we are in the second division, here is what we can do for you but if we are in the third... And, of course, they went off on their holidays and spent their bonuses and came back to find we were still in the third. It was cruel."

But he maintains that the uncertainty has not disrupted his preparations and, that being so, Tranmere should be the team to beat this year. At times last season, as when beating Bristol City, who went on to gain promotion, 6-0, or during an extended Littlewoods Cup tie with Tottenham Hotspur, they seemed far too good for the third division.

Much will depend on the form of Harvey and McNab in midfield, Hughes and Higgins in defence and Malkin and Muir in attack. Muir, the club's leading scorer last season, has not yet signed a new contract but is likely to start the season. King has money to spend if the need arises.

Tranmere's rivals are likely to be led by Bury, whose manager, Sam Ellis, has bought four players for a total of more than £400,000 during the summer. McGinley, who came from Shrewsbury Town, will be expected to provide goals, a burden made heavier by the departure of Hoyland, who scored 16 League goals last season. But the best of Ellis's buys may prove to be Stanislaus, an attacking full-back who impressed many at Brentford last year.

Ellis is cautiously optimistic

Are Tranmere still too good for the third division? This time they should not stumble, says KEITH BLACKMORE

tic: "We won a lot of away games last season but were not tight enough at the back. But you always start a new season with hope."

Brentford's own promotion hopes seem unlikely to survive the loss of Stanislaus and, more importantly, Steve Perriman, who resigned as manager last week. The other West London club, Fulham, will hope to improve on a poor performance last year under their new manager, Alan Dicks.

Bournemouth's return to the third has been overshadowed by the serious injury suffered by their manager, Harry Redknapp, in a car accident. Stuart Morgan, the youth development officer, is holding the reins until Redknapp recovers.

Bolton Wanderers, under the guiding hand of Phil Neal, are strong in defence and therefore likely to be among the other promotion contenders despite making no close-season changes.

Of the promoted teams, only Exeter City, the champions of the fourth last year, seem likely to prosper and they will need to improve their performance away from home. Grimsby Town should hold their own but both Southend United, who lost their leading scorer, Crown, to Gillingham, and Cambridge United may struggle.

Chesterfield might have fared better than either of these two in the third division this season but, as they lost in the play-off final to Cambridge, they will instead be the favourites to gain promotion from the fourth division.

Paul Hart, their manager, has been able to make only two additions to his squad, completing the signing of Lee Francis, an impressive young full-back, from Arsenal and John Cooke from Stockport County, both on free transfers. Waller, the club's leading scorer last season, has not yet signed a new contract but is likely to start the season. King has money to spend if the need arises.

Tranmere's rivals are likely to be led by Bury, whose manager, Sam Ellis, has bought four players for a total of more than £400,000 during the summer. McGinley, who came from Shrewsbury Town, will be expected to provide goals, a burden made heavier by the departure of Hoyland, who scored 16 League goals last season. But the best of Ellis's buys may prove to be Stanislaus, an attacking full-back who impressed many at Brentford last year.

Ellis is cautiously optimistic



Final preparations: King (right) supervising training yesterday with Ray Mathias and Warwick Rummer (left)

ATTENDANCES IN 1988-89 AND 1989-90

THIRD DIVISION

Club	Total	1988-89	1989-90	Diff
Birmingham	144,055	8,265	195,881	8,516 + 2,251
Blackpool	95,348	4,278	82,328	4,058 - 218
Bolton	121,444	10,000	11,000	+ 1,000
Brentford	100,500	10,000	100,200	- 20
Bristol	186,760	8,126	265,508	11,544 + 3,424
Bristol R	120,357	5,268	143,068	6,220 + 951
Bury	100,532	5,284	75,758	3,541 - 743
Chester	70,265	3,052	72,189	3,137 + 137
Chesterfield	75,892	3,298	92,177	4,000 + 1,885
Cheltenham	133,983	5,821	129,493	5,630 - 191
Coventry	67,238	3,793	100,397	4,355 + 572
Doncaster	100,115	4,000	71,300	- 1,000
Exeter	90,124	5,218	102,193	7,975 + 175
Notts Co	130,925	5,975	134,568	5,651 + 143
Preston NE	177,351	7,737	145,180	6,312 - 1,425
Rangers	151,451	5,000	151,200	- 200
Rotherham	118,449	5,063	128,254	5,578 + 513
Shrewsbury	106,238	4,708	90,161	5,485 - 1,221
Southend	122,513	5,331	171,257	7,445 + 2,115
Walsall	140,484	6,108	103,776	4,077 - 2,031
Wigan	72,473	3,151	63,675	2,768 - 383

FOURTH DIVISION

Club	Total	1988-89	1989-90	Diff
Aldershot	80,007	2,616	46,528	2,026 - 586
Burnley	162,426	7,052	143,014	2,218 - 844
Carshalton	73,048	1,176	100,905	4,726 + 1,529
Chesterfield	85,491	8,717	95,168	4,181 + 664
Colchester	86,238	2,655	72,654	5,158 + 265
Dover	81,617	2,679	111,598	8,921 + 1,172
Gillingham	84,528	3,675	88,228	3,653 + 182
Grimsby	44,789	4,046	55,528	5,582 + 187
Hartlepool	47,104	2,048	56,334	5,256 + 484
Harrow	49,036	2,132	61,973	2,841 + 567
Leeds	32,074	3,071	59,268	2,897 + 2,824
Peterborough	76,072	3,264	111,000	4,025 + 532
Rochdale	45,264	1,968	46,600	2,028 + 56
Scunthorpe	45,045	1,550	46,600	1,555 + 155
Sunderland	85,077	3,685	87,007	3,922 + 285
Torquay	54,027	2,249	40,001	2,134 - 276
Wrexham	60,829	2,636	54,450	2,827 - 291
York	60,099	2,613	60,081	2,613 - 1

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE THIRD AND FOURTH DIVISIONS

Third division	Chester City	Preston North End	Tranmere Rovers	Doncaster Rovers	Peterborough United
TRANSFERS: In: N Ellis (Bengor, £7,000); Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: N Ellis (Bengor, £7,000); Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: N. Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: P Holmes (Stockport, free); E Gormley (Tottemham, free).	TRANSFERS: In: P Bradshaw (West Bromwich, free); K Brammer (Bighton, £18,000). Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: P Bradshaw (West Bromwich, free); K Brammer (Bighton, £18,000). Out: None.
Bolton Wanderers	TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: N. Out: N. Whitworth (Manchester Utd, £10,000).	TRANSFERS: In: N. Out: N. Whitworth (Manchester Utd, £10,000).	TRANSFERS: In: P Bradshaw (West Bromwich, free); K Brammer (Bighton, £18,000). Out: None.
Bournemouth	TRANSFERS: In: T Puls (Gillingham, free). Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.	TRANSFERS: In: None. Out: None.
Bradford City	TRANSFERS: In: S McCarthy (Plymouth, £250,000); M Stuart (Plymouth, £280,000); R James (Swansea, tribunal). Out: G Evans (Hull, free); M Alziedow (Bristol City, £125,000); A Davies (Swansea, free).	TRANSFERS: In: G Barnett (Fulham, free); Kelly (Cardiff, tribunal, £27,500); P Mullis (Bury, tribunal, £21,000); G Elton (Wolverhampton, £20,000); C Walker (Brentford, £15,000).	TRANSFERS: In: K McPherson (Northampton, tribunal); F Street (Wolverhampton, free); C Maskell (Huddersfield, tribunal). Out: M Tait (Cardiff, free).	TRANSFERS: In: A Holmes (Stockport, free); E Gormley (Tottemham, free).	TRANSFERS: In: P Bradshaw (West Bromwich

Improving Star Lord to take command in competitive Ebor

By MANDARIN

NEWMARKET stables look set to dominate the middle day of York's star-studded Ebor meeting this afternoon with Hellenic, Star Lord and Mujahid taken to capture the three principal prizes.

Star Lord, laid out all season for the Ebor, can give Alec Stewart and Michael Roberts their second success in the last four runnings of the Tote-sponsored handicap following Daarkom's 1987 victory.

Unraced at two, Star Lord did not appear on a racecourse until 12 months ago and has run only five times in all.

After opening his account at the third attempt in a conditions race over today's course and distance last October, Star Lord entered many notebooks as one to follow this season when second in a valuable handicap Newbury handicaps.

The son of Lord Gayle failed by only a short head to master the useful and far more experienced Empire Blue with the pair four lengths clear and a host of good horses such as Black Monday, Starlet and Summer Fashion behind.

Star Lord has had just one run this term, again catching the eye when staying on to be third behind Open Ghost over an inadequate 1½ miles at York last month.

The dangers are inevitably numerous with Barnish, Off The Record and Traingat principal among them. However, in the belief that Star Lord, like Daarkom, may be a图案 horse in the making, he is awarded the nap.

All eyes will be on Mujahid in the Scottish Equitable Gimcrack Stakes as the 2,000 Guineas favourite endeavours to sustain the excellent impression he created when

Hellenic has looked a narrow vote over her stable companion, Kartajana, in the Aiston Upthorpe Yorkshire Oaks in the belief that her proven stamina will be decisive.



Stewart hoping for another Ebor success

powering past Mac's Imp in the July Stakes at Newmarket.

With Mac's Imp carrying all before him prior to and since Newmarket, that was without question the outstanding two-year-old performance of the season and Mujahid cannot logically be opposed.

Mujahid, another impressive Newmarket winner, has also been backed for the form of his short-head Sandown second to Distinctly North.

Another who will appreciate a return to five furlongs is Tom Jones's consistent sprinter, Ra'a in the Falmouth Handicap. His form over six furlongs includes a third behind Tod and Dayur at Newbury in May and a similar placing behind Sharp N' Early in a Lingfield listed race the following month.

Cath Walwyn saddles her first runner since taking over the licence from her husband, Fulke, when The Pursewarren challenges for the Eartham Handicap Hurdle at Fontwell Park today.

Blinded first time

YESTERDAY At Eight, Mystical Flower, VANTAGE 2.00 The Monks Surprise, Sweet Steps.

Kartajana has looked a high-class filly in winning at Newbury and Goodwood but she disappointed on her only

complete Carter's double by two lengths.

Ian Johnson was in the winner's enclosure for the first time since the fall that ended his riding career at Doncaster's St Leger meeting almost a year ago. This time Johnson was saddling Inspired Love on behalf of John Yandley.

After the grey mare had pegged back Khorrovo inside the final furlong to take the Cheltenham Handicap by two lengths, he said: "I used to ride for John and we discuss prospects on the telephone quite a lot. But I still haven't got a job."

Carter, now on the 16 mark, said: "I've had Susanna's Secret

Carter's colt lands a gamble

WALTER Carter's successful Epsom stable, on the mark with Petie Butterfly at Windsor on Monday, continued in good form when landing a 27/1 double at Folkestone yesterday.

Susanna's Secret landed a minor gamble from 25/1 to 11-1 in the Canterbury Handicap. The colt had never been in the frame before but was always in the first four here and Billy Neaves produced him to collar Grey Run well inside the final furlong and win cleverly by a length.

Carter, now on the 16 mark, said: "I've had Susanna's Secret

FONTWELL PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

1.30 Final Flutter. 9-2 The Pursewarren. 2.30 Smallwood Willett. 3.0 Tring Park. 3.30 Media Leader. 4.0 Spofforth.

Going: good to firm

1.30 OIVING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,360; 2m 2f) (7 runners)

1 085 MISS RIVER ROYAL 72P (M) A Davison 6-11

2 084 FINAL FLUTTER 12 (F) A Moore 5-14-2 6 Clegg 7-1

3 082 DECIDING 12 (L) 3 Long 4-1-2 6 Lewis 6-1

4 081 TIGER TIGER 12 (F) P Thompson 5-11-2 6 Lewis 6-1

5 083 LUCKY OAK 12 (B) Head 4-1-6 6 Head 6-1

6 084 KUMZAR 11 Bradley 6-1-1 6 Lewis 6-1

7 085 SNAPSHOT BABY 7 (F) R Vowsey 6-1-2 6 McNeice 6-1

7-4 Deciding, 8-1 Tiger Tiger, 9-2 Miss River Royal, 13-2 Final Flutter, 9-1 Snapshot Baby, 20-1 others.

2.0 EARTHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,862; 2m 2f) (5)

1 01P THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2 014 SOLSTICE SELL 268 (GJDF) R Vowsey 5-11-0 6 McNeice

3 015 STRIKE A CHORD 9 (F) Miss G Doherty 6-11-1 6 McNeice

4 014 FIGHTING DADS 8 (CDF) A Moore 4-10-11 6 McNeice

5 016 KATY LOU 186 (CJF) Miss B Sanders 4-10-2 6 McNeice

5-4 Fighting Dads, 11-4 Katy Lou, 9-2 Solstice Bell.

2.0 TRUNDELL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,081; 2m 2f) (10yds) (2)

1 01-3 SMALLWOOD WILLET 13 (F) P Hobbs 10-11-10 6 McNeice

2 02-2 THE UNDERGRADUATE 229 (C) T Threlfall 11-10-11 6 McNeice

2-5 Smallwood Willet, 7-4 The Undergraduate.

Results from yesterday's two meetings

York

Going: good

2.5 (1) 01 STARLORD (S) Caudron 13-18-2 6 MacNeice

2.5 (2) 02 HELLGEN (S) Caudron 13-18-2 6 MacNeice

2.5 (3) 03 JUDIMENTUS (F) Caudron 13-18-2 6 MacNeice

2.5 (4) 04 TIGER TIGER (F) Caudron 13-18-2 6 MacNeice

2.5 (5) 05 LUCKY OAK 12 (B) Head 4-1-6 6 Head 6-1

2.5 (6) 06 KUMZAR 11 Bradley 6-1-1 6 Lewis 6-1

2.5 (7) 07 SNAPSHOT BABY 7 (F) R Vowsey 6-1-2 6 McNeice 6-1

2.5 (8) 08 DECIDING 12 (L) 3 Long 4-1-2 6 Lewis 6-1

2.5 (9) 09 FINAL FLUTTER 12 (F) A Moore 5-14-2 6 Clegg 7-1

2.5 (10) 10 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (11) 11 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (12) 12 LUCKY OAK 12 (B) Head 4-1-6 6 Head 6-1

2.5 (13) 13 SMALLWOOD WILLET 13 (F) P Hobbs 10-11-10 6 McNeice

2.5 (14) 14 SNAPSHOT BABY 7 (F) R Vowsey 6-1-2 6 McNeice 6-1

2.5 (15) 15 DECIDING 12 (L) 3 Long 4-1-2 6 Lewis 6-1

2.5 (16) 16 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (17) 17 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (18) 18 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (19) 19 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (20) 20 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (21) 21 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (22) 22 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (23) 23 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (24) 24 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (25) 25 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (26) 26 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (27) 27 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (28) 28 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (29) 29 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (30) 30 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (31) 31 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (32) 32 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (33) 33 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (34) 34 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (35) 35 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (36) 36 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (37) 37 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (38) 38 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (39) 39 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (40) 40 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (41) 41 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (42) 42 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (43) 43 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (44) 44 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (45) 45 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (46) 46 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (47) 47 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (48) 48 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (49) 49 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (50) 50 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (51) 51 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (52) 52 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (53) 53 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (54) 54 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (55) 55 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (56) 56 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (57) 57 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

2.5 (58) 58 THE PURSEWARREN 116 (CJF) Mrs F Walwyn 7-18-2 6 McNeice

Young err on the side of safety

By JOHN WOODCOCK

NORTHAMPTON (final day of four): England Under-19 drew with Pakistan Under-19

WITH a little more spunk and rather greater awareness England's young cricketers might well have won the first of their three four-day matches against their Pakistani counterparts at Northampton yesterday. Instead they gave away victory to avoiding defeat, and the match was drawn.

At close of play on Monday, England were 269 for four in reply to Pakistan's first innings of 298 for eight declared. They had two constructive options: either to declare overnight or to continue bating, so long as they did so purposefully. Instead, they plodded pointlessly along until they were all out half an hour after lunch.

When, eventually, Pakistan did go again, they were soon losing wickets — but it was too late by then to bring about their downfall. To have tried to put the Pakistanis under pressure earlier would have involved no risk to England. It was the same in Australia. I am afraid when I saw much the same young England side playing there last winter, I then too seemed concerned with making sure they could not lose before trying to win.

The irony here at Northampton was that by far the best of the English bating came when, through Grayson, Holloway, and Crawley, they were pursuing the initiative. When Holloway was second out on Monday afternoon, in the 52nd over, the score was already 197. In 65 overs after that, England scored only another 55 runs.

It looks to me as though limited-overs cricket, arranged fixtures, and the modern obsession with medium pace are combining to obscure from young minds what can be achieved with a touch of blarney, a dash of ingenuity, a slice or two of luck, and an eye for the calculated risk.

Even so, England would probably have won yesterday but for a remarkable innings from Zaid Faizal. If the tour brochure is to be believed he is not yet 17. He looks at least old enough to be Tendulkar's father, and hits the ball like a kicking mule. Twice he cleared the pavilion with enormous drives off Robert's leg breaks, the ball never being seen again after the second of them.

It was a spinner who got him, though. Grayson, orthodox left-arm, removed Faizal with his first ball, and then Laeeq with his second. Pakistan were the equivalent then of 68 for seven with 20 minutes plus 20 overs left. It was as near as they were to get to losing.

Rowe hits out to set up win

By GEORGE CHESTERTON

THE losing finalists last year, South Wilts, beat Spaldon in the final of the under-15 club championship. Russell Rowe, the South Wilts captain and wicketkeeper, received the Harry Secombe Cup from Tim Rice, president of the Lord's Taverners, while Guy Linkester, the England and Tottenham football player, presented medals to the participants.

Rowe, who opened the innings for South Wilts, struck the ball hard and in a second-wicket partnership with Stuart Gulliver, a willowy left-hander, put on 62 runs. When they slumped from 62 for three to 95 all out, their chances looked slim.

Like their opponents, Spaldon lost a wicket without a run on the board. Mark Stallard and Greg Holland struck the ball high and hard in a stand of 28, but the latter played the ball in the air too often and was caught at cover. Cruse caught a fine catch over his head, and Stephen Elcock bowled tidily, taking two for four, to retrieve his team having been caught behind off the first ball of the match.

In an effort to catch up with the required rate, Spaldon suffered three run-outs, the third to an excellent throw by Stuart Nash and they were bowled out, with an over to spare, for only 57.

This competition, which started in April, has been sponsored for the sixth year by Sun Life of Canada. More than 10,000 boys from nearly 1,000 clubs have taken part in the event.

RESULTS: Semi-final: Sunlife Civil Service 113-2 (M O'Brien 51), Spaldon 114-3 (S Clarke 54); South Wilts 132-6 (R Rowe 50), Spaldon 100-5. For third place: Stow-on-the-Wold (M O'Brien 57), A Mupard 50; South Wilts 121-5 (A Stowman 52). Final: South Wilts 58 (R Rowe 40; P Cook 7, S Clarke 3 for 14), Spaldon 57 (S Cook 2 for 4, M Welsh 2 for 8).

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Unbearable tenseness as Roses match is drawn

Sharp sees his side through despite breaking his thumb

By JACK BAILEY

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire (5pts) drew with Yorkshire (4)

THIS was far from being just another drawn Roses match. There was a real tenseness about the day which became almost unbearable at the end as Barry, Yorkshire's last man, joined Sharp for the last five overs, bowled by Watkinson and Wasim Akram.

There were real heroics, too, Sharp coming in at the fall of the eighth wicket, bating through 14 overs with a fractured right thumb, and seeing his side through. He looked the calmest man on the ground as he did so.

Then there was Watkinson's tour de force. He bowled 44 consecutive overs of spin from the Warwick Road end, took five wickets, and all but bowled his team to victory. Watkinson is ranked as a medium-pace swing-and-seam merchant. He has bowled spinners before but so far he has always reverted. After yesterday's performance and seven wickets in the match, he must be wondering.

Foster sends out an Essex warning

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

ESSEX, playing with a confidence and style that bodes well for any of their rivals, moved into second place in the Britannic Assurance championship yesterday, beating Surrey by 10 wickets.

The Gloucestershire revival at Trent Bridge, begun by an inspired spell of bowling from Lawrence, was carried through by a doughty, unbeaten century from Russell, who batted in his best England vein for four hours and squeezed 134 from the last four wickets.

Nottinghamshire, who found themselves needing 236 from 42 overs, were held in check by tight bowling and were eventually glad to scrub out with a draw at 153 for eight.

The chasing teams also finished on the wrong end of draws at Worcester and Hove, both denied by taking left-arm spin. Worcestershire, needing 241 to beat Northants, clung on at 157 for seven. Nick Cook, who had Hick stumped for 50, ended with four for 57. Sussex, set 312 to beat injury-hit Kent, passed 190 with eight wickets in hand but Davis then took three wickets in ten balls on his way to a return of six for 97, Sussex finishing at 257 for seven.

Surry, who scored only 114 in their first innings again found the bowling of Foster too much for them and were dismissed for 120. Foster taking six for 32 to give himself match figures of 11 for 76. Andrew backed him up with six for 61.

Afterwards, Gooch, who will be free of his England responsibilities for the final four matches of the run-in, said he had never lost faith in his side, even when they were languishing in the lower reaches of the table. "I always felt we could get back into it by putting together a few wins and that is what has happened, although there is still a long way to go before anything is settled." Foster bowled brill-

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Rose hits Somerset to a rare victory

By RICHARD STREETON

TAUNTON (final day of four): Somerset (220s) beat Hampshire (189) by five wickets

HARD hitting by Graham Rose, who struck three sixes in the closing stages, brought Somerset victory with four balls to spare yesterday as they clinched only their second championship win of the season. Hampshire had left them a target of 302 from what became 61 overs.

The final outcome will bring considerable satisfaction to Somerset, who paced their innings shrewdly and who this summer have not always been blessed by good fortune. Hampshire's failure to win, though, caused them to lose vital ground in the title race.

Hampshire's disappointment must have been all the more acute because two balls had "popped" nastily towards the close of their own innings. One of them brought Gower's dismissal and it was enough to suggest that the pitch was starting to crumble.

In the event the odd ball kept low and Maru got some turn, but the Somerset batsmen were seldom inconvenienced. Cook launched the run chase with a marvellous 77 and, though some momentum was briefly lost later, Somerset always looked the most likely to win.

Cook scored freely from the start as he drove, cut and pushed the new ball into the gaps with calm certainty. Nicholas had Roebuck caught behind at 84 but the score was 147 before Cook was out. Marshall had returned and his fifth ball kept low and had the South African left.

Cook faced 103 balls, hit ten fours and took his match aggregate to 191 and his total to 304 for the season to 2,360. Hampshire, who had twice straight driven Maru for six, was stumped against the spinner soon afterwards but Tavaré and Harden then added a near decisive 91 in 13 overs. Tavaré regularly lapped runs against Maru.

Somerset still needed 56 from seven overs when Harden lifted a well disguised slower ball from Connor to mid-wicket. A further 30 were needed from four overs when Tavaré was run out.

The issue was effectively settled in the 18th over of the last 20 when an over by Maru cost 17 runs, including a six out of the ground by Rose and four by Rose's 33 not out from 19 balls.

Hampshire earlier were seldom able to score as quickly as they would have wished against the main Somerset bowlers, and their declaration was delayed until half an hour after lunch. Harden's rarely used left-arm spin brought him return catches from Terry and Chris Smith as the batsmen later tried to increase the tempo. In between these wickets Gower got a lifting ball from Leibvre and was caught in the covers as he tried to play through the leg side.

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FOOTBALL

Higher prize-money announced for divisional winners

By CLIVE WHITE and IAN ROSS

BARCLAYS Bank, the Football League sponsor, yesterday announced a £60,000 increase in prize-money for the four divisions this season which is incorporated in a £7 million deal over the next three years.

Sponsorship this year will be £2.2 million, for 1991-2 £2.3 million, and for 1992-3 £2.5 million.

The prize-money has risen from £240,000 to £300,000 which will earn the runner-up in the first division £50,000 instead of £20,000, the second team in the second division £20,000 instead of £15,000 and the runners-up in the third and fourth divisions £10,000 as against £5,000 last season.

The first division champions will again receive £100,000 with the second division winners collecting

Taylor's new deadline

GRAHAM Taylor, the England manager, intends to give League managers more time before deciding whether or not a player is fit for international duty on the weekend before a midweek international. Consequently, players will not be asked to report to England's headquarters until Monday lunchtime as opposed to Sunday, which has hitherto been the case.

Taylor, whose first match in charge will be against Hungary at Wembley on September 12,

Nightmare start to a dream

From PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

A CLUB'S first-ever match in Europe is meant to be the stuff of dreams. But with five players on the injured list, reality is closing in on Bray Wanderers as they prepare for their European Cup Winners' Cup preliminary round tie against the Turkish Cup holders, Trabzonspor, in Dublin tonight.

The tie has come frighteningly early for the club's manager, Pat Devlin, who was in America at the end of a long season when word came through that his side had drawn the short straw of a preliminary-round match in the middle of August, something no side in these islands would relish.

For a team of part-timers, it posed even greater problems. "I'd told them to be sure and get

EQUESTRIANISM

Bentley's vintage form

THE best 29 teams of four riders aged 12 to 20 from the United Kingdom competed in the Champion Pooy Club Dressage championships at Weston Park, Shifnal, yesterday, for which they all had to qualify from regional competitions (a Special Correspondent writes).

Trabzonspor are hardly the ideal opponents, as either crowd-pullers or as a soft touch. The Turkish Cup winners may not terrify, Barcelona, who lie ahead in the first round for the visitors, but everything is relative in football, and with four

members of the Turkish national squad and two Yugoslavs, Trabzonspor look like giants to a side who have been in the League of Ireland for only five years.

Preparations for the biggest day in Bray's history have not been ideal, with most of the team doing a day's work before training last night, as the manager tried to sort out what he described as the worst injury list in his six years in the job. Sunday's defeat in the League Cup by Bohemians has not helped.

John Ryan, who scored all three goals in the Irish Cup Final, has returned from a week's training with Bolton Wanderers in form. He will pose the main threat.

Lizzie Styler, aged 14, from Coventry, riding a horse who has recently recovered from a virus, Annabel Almond, aged 19, from Kendal, on her young six-year-old, and Caity Fenn, aged 19, brought in as a substitute the day before completed the successful team.

RESULTS: Team champion: 1, North Warwickshire, 6383; 2, Coventry and Hornbeam, 520; 3, Holcombe Hounds, 447; 4, Cheltenham and Gloucester, 389; 5, Northants, 328; 6, Cirencester, 145; 7, Gloucester, 145; 8, Wiltshire, 145; 9, Herefordshire, 145; 10, Warwickshire, 145; 11, Gloucester, 145; 12, Cheltenham and Gloucester, 145; 13, Gloucester, 145; 14, Herefordshire, 145; 15, Gloucester, 145; 16, Gloucester, 145; 17, Gloucester, 145; 18, Gloucester, 145; 19, Gloucester, 145; 20, Gloucester, 145; 21, Gloucester, 145; 22, Gloucester, 145; 23, Gloucester, 145; 24, Gloucester, 145; 25, Gloucester, 145; 26, Gloucester, 145; 27, Gloucester, 145; 28, Gloucester, 145; 29, Gloucester, 145; 30, Gloucester, 145; 31, Gloucester, 145; 32, Gloucester, 145; 33, Gloucester, 145; 34, Gloucester, 145; 35, Gloucester, 145; 36, Gloucester, 145; 37, Gloucester, 145; 38, Gloucester, 145; 39, Gloucester, 145; 40, Gloucester, 145; 41, Gloucester, 145; 42, Gloucester, 145; 43, Gloucester, 145; 44, Gloucester, 145; 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SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22 1990

Derbyshire docked 25 points

By IVO TENNANT

DERBYSHIRE became yesterday the first county this season to have 25 points deducted for poor pitch preparation. A five-man panel led by Donald Carr, the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board's pitches committee, and a former Derbyshire captain, came to a unanimous decision that the pitch used for their championship match against Middlesex at Derby was "clearly unfit for first-class cricket".

The TCCB panel, comprising Carr, Tim Lamb, the cricket secretary, Doug Lucas, who is on the pitches committee, Alan Smith,

chief executive, and Ossie Whealey, chairman of the cricket committee, stressed that "there was no question of deliberate intent or malpractice on the part of Derbyshire".

This was evident in Derbyshire's decision not to include their fast bowlers Bishop and Malcolm. The pitch, which was reported by the umpires on Sunday, was wet, uneven of bounce and all in all contravened the TCCB's regulations on preparation.

Derbyshire had no quarrel with the decision, realising on the first day of the match, Saturday, that the

pitch was not a good one. "But we did everything to prepare it to TCCB specifications," Bob Lark, their chief executive, said. "A downpour last week caused part of the problem. The pitch was then affected when it dried out. We respect the umpires' decision and have to accept it."

Lark said that the groundsman, Steve Birks, might have to leave a little more grass on the pitch they are to use for their next championship match, starting against Essex tomorrow. Ironically, they were criticised by the TCCB (but not reported by the umpires as ad-

versely as they were for this match) for producing a green pitch against Nottinghamshire in May.

"We made the point to the panel that the problem was caused through taking off the grass, which would have bound the surface together," Lark said.

"Steve Birks will be the ultimate decision-maker, but it might be that we have to leave more grass on for the remainder of our matches." He added that Derbyshire will soon be digging up pitches and relaying them.

Derbyshire are the third county to have had 25 points docked. Essex

and Nottinghamshire having been given the ultimate penalty last season. Essex were penalised for the pitch at Southend, which was reported by the umpires for two successive matches. The deduction of points ultimately cost them the championship, as they finished the season six points behind

Nottinghamshire.

The TCCB's regulations state that pitches "should start completely dry and there should ideally be no evidence of greenness and no obvious mat of grass".

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Middlesex collapse sees lead cut

By IVO TENNANT

DERBY (final day of three): Derbyshire (22pts) beat Middlesex (6) by 171 runs

MIDDLESEX were beaten yesterday for the first time in the championship this season, succumbing as much through their own failabilities as those of the notorious pitch. Dismissed for 99, their lead of the match has been cut to two points. They have not won any of their last six matches.

This was their lowest score of the season. That they never remotely looked like making 271 to win seems in part because they were harbouring a grievance about the conditions. Certainly, three batsmen — Gatting, Downton and Emburey — were out to night unplayable balls, but the remainder batted as if expecting to receive one or more every over.

That, perhaps, was the worst aspect about having to cope with such a pitch and, doubtless, was a factor in Derbyshire finishing not with 25 points for their first championship victory of the season at Derby but with minus three. It effectively dashes their chances of winning the title.

In fairness to them, it should be added that they were batting without undue difficulty when they declared at 230 for six soon after lunch. Roberts and Miller put on 87 for the seventh wicket and Emburey, who had taken five cheap wickets in Derbyshire's first innings, now took his four at a cost of 71. Neither was Fraser especially effectual.

Middlesex were left with 54 overs in which to make their runs. They were, at the very least, expected to make a game of it. Yet their first three batsmen went rather tamely and, from 22 for three, there was no comeback.

Rosberry was late on one from Basie that kept low but which he might have countered had he been on the front foot. Haynes was taken at short leg off an inside edge and Rampakash, having struck Basie for six over square leg, was bowled in his next over aiming a crooked drive.

With the conditions in his favour, Basie was now beginning to look like the bowler who stirred Del Dexter's interest last season. His next wicket was the crucial one — that of Gatting, who looked barely fit to bat at all after the blow he had taken the previous day. Strangely, though, he eschewed a runner as if intent only on survival.

So what would have been three runs to another batsman became only two to him, and a further drive which beat the in-field resulted in only a hobbled single. Basie almost had him caught at second slip before a brute of a ball, which reared from short of a length, resulted in short leg taking a catch off a glove.

That could decide by

Championship table

	P	W	L	D	R	B	M	Ps
Middlesex (3)	17	7	11	0	57	42	211	
Essex (2)	17	6	10	1	54	54	193	
Hampshire (7)	18	6	12	0	50	57	192	
Leics (13)	18	5	13	0	51	41	172	
Glamorgan (17)	18	5	13	0	53	34	167	
Derbyshire (6)	18	5	13	0	51	34	167	
Notts (11)	17	4	12	1	51	45	157	
Surrey (12)	17	3	11	4	51	51	151	
Northants (15)	18	3	12	2	52	59	153	
Somerset (6)	18	2	14	3	57	57	152	
Sussex (10)	18	2	14	2	58	48	150	
Derbyshire deducted 25pts for sub-standard pitch. Surrey total includes 8pts in drawn match with scores level								
1989 positions in brackets								

further catch at short leg by Kuiper, this from another tentative prod. Basie now had five wickets for 17, and finished with five for 28.

When Miller came on — and had Williams picked up at leg slip, the spin not fully scouted — Middlesex were 41 for seven. Such ignominy had not befallen them since they were dismissed for 43 by Lancashire at Lord's last year. They did at least exceed that, mainly through some stout blows by Fraser. He made 26 before missing a swing at Miller.

Emburey had been taken at second slip off one from Jean-Jacques which popped and took the edge. By the time Tuffnell was leg-before attempting an extraordinarily ambitious reverse sweep, the pitches delegation was in deep conference. They had seen enough and, when the smoke began to rise, Middlesex were making the hastiest of exits. Gatting's scowl was

embroidered with sweat.

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